DOWN MEMORY LANE A HISTORICAL RECORD OF PEOPLE & EVENTS IN CALIFORNIA'S GREAT HEMET-SAN JACINTO VALLEY G 979.402 H87d

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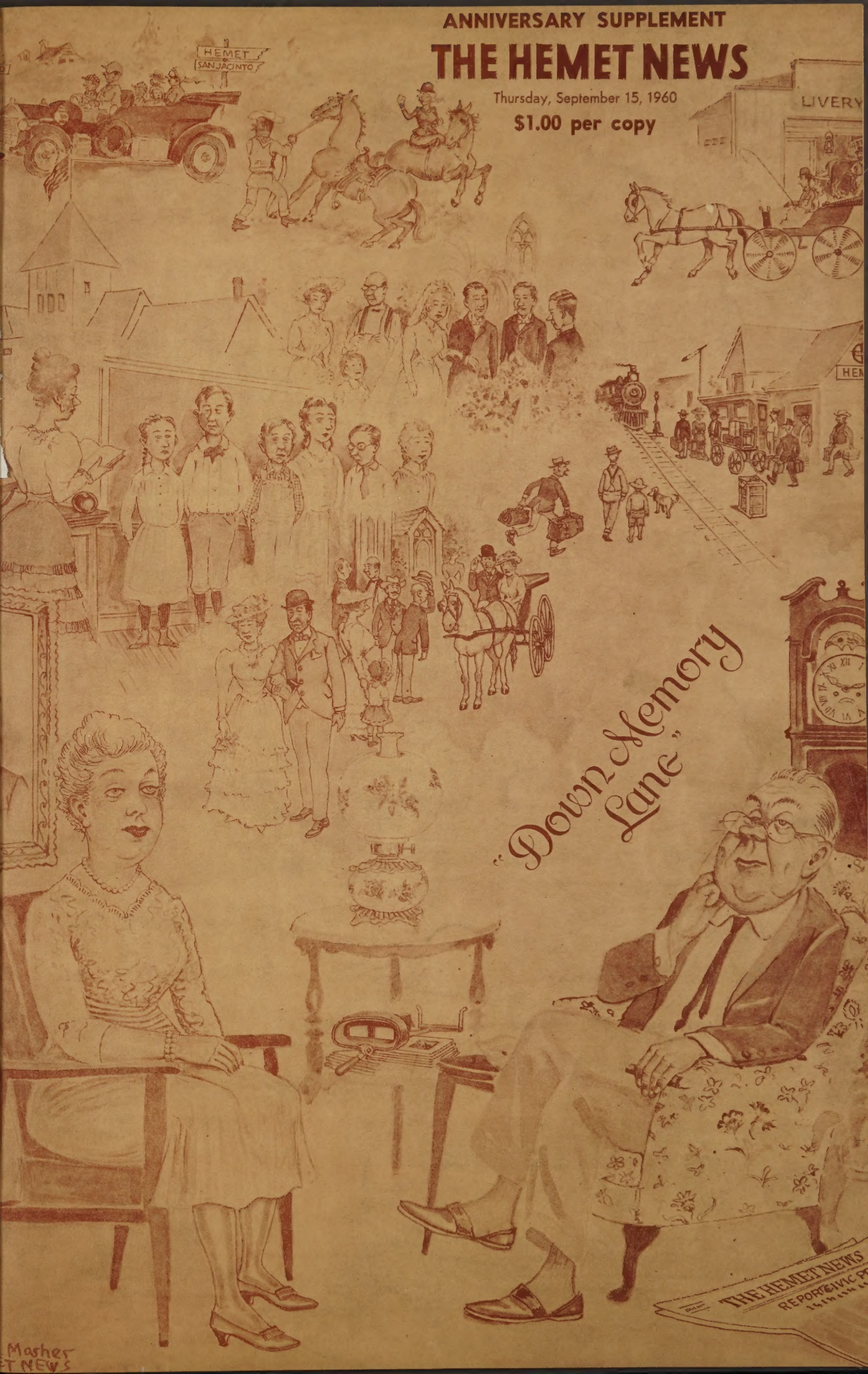
ANNIVERSARY SUPPLEMENT

THE HEMET NEWS

Thursday, September 15, 1960

$1.00 per copy



SECURITY IN HEMET

We are proud to be a part of Hemet's continued growth pattern and happily offer our congratulations on the "fiftieth anniversary of the city's incorporation".

The dedication of Hemet's new three hundred thousand dollar Civic Center reflects the continued confidence of the people of Hemet. Security First National Bank is happy to be a part of this confidence.

SECURITY FIRST NATIONAL BANK

HEMET BRANCH • 135 E. Florida Ave. • Hemet, California • W. W. Watson, Vice President and Manager

MEMBER: FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Down Memory Lane

. . . . . A HISTORICAL RECORD OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN CALIFORNIA'S GREAT HEMET-SAN JACINTO VALLEY

MAZE STONE DESIGN—First photograph ever taken of the controversial engraving on the Maze stone in Reinhart canyon. It was taken about 1915 by Si White, pioneer Hemet photographer. With him at the time were his son, Harry, and Clarence Swift, now curator of the Ramona Bowl museum.

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ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE SECTION

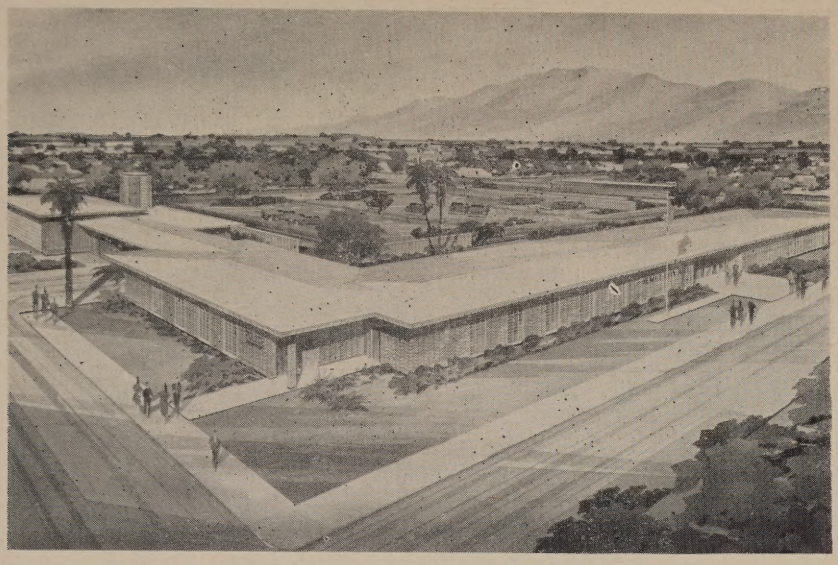
THE HEMET NEWS

Hemet, California

Thursday, September 15, 1960

HOMER D. KING
Editor-Publisher

JAMES W. GILL, Jr.
Business Manager



NEW CIVIC CENTER—Architect's drawing of Hemet's new municipal offices covering half a city block on Latham avenue between Juanita and Buena Vista streets. This special edition of The Hemet News is published to coincide with the civic center dedication.

City's 50th Anniversary Year

This special magazine section of The Hemet News is published in connection with the observance of Hemet's Fiftieth Anniversary Year — the fiftieth anniversary of Hemet's incorporation, that is.

As a thriving and fast-growing community, Hemet is older than 50 years — at least 20 years older — because the town was actually founded when the development of the Hemet Valley was started by W. F. Whittier, San Francisco capitalist, in the late 1880's.

As a matter of fact, Hemet was quite a place as early as 1893, the year Riverside county was created and The Hemet News was started. The great Hemet dam in the San Jacinto mountains had just been completed, and water from Lake Hemet, behind the dam, was already being used for irrigation here. Thousands of fertile, but parched, acres of brushland were coming into bloom on the valley's floor.

Years before the city was incorporated in 1910, Hemet had two banks, a three-story 40-room hotel, a three-story opera house building, a flour mill, two livery stables, two blacksmith shops and large high school and grade school buildings.

But anyway, the golden anniversary of the city's incorporation seemed worth celebrating, and Hemet has been doing it all year, with the climaxing event the dedication of a new $300,000 civic center.

•

Today Hemet is marching forward with new energy and determination.

The 1960 census has put Hemet's population at 5350.

Most of the fringe area surrounding the city is as thickly populated as the city itself, and population within the Hemet trade area is now estimated at more than 35,000.

Following is some of the statistical information that makes up the Hemet growth picture at the beginning of 1960:

The California Electric company added 500 new meters in 1959. There are now 7415 meters compared to 6964 a year ago.

There are now 6459 telephone subscribers in the Hemet exchange compared to 5944 a year earlier — a gain of approximately 500.

The city water department reports 1969 meters compared to 1915 a year earlier.

Hemet postoffice receipts for 1959 established a new record of more than $150,000.

Hemet school district enrollment was 2825 early in 1960. A year earlier it was 2575. Average daily attendance in 1959 was 2750.

The Hemet Community hospital served 2117 patients in 1959 and there were 512 babies born at the hospital during that year, a new record.

Hemet city building permits in 1959 represented a valuation of $1,395,912, only a few thousand dollars below the 1956 record of $1,434,968.

Valuation of building permits in 1959 for the unincorporated areas of the Hemet and San Jacinto school districts was $4,553,684.

•

Field and orchard crop production in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley in 1959 showed a cash value gain of $1,784,952 over 1958.

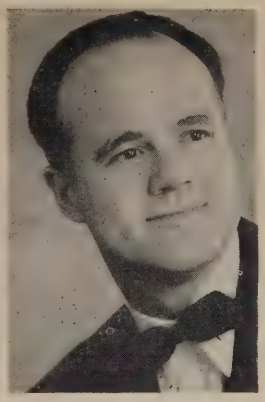
Total cash value of valley soil crops in 1959 was $8,495,136, compared to $6,710,184 a year earlier. The 1959 valuation figure was $779,898 above the record year of 1956, when the figure was $7,715,238.

The valley's major cash crop in 1959 was potatoes, which brought in $2,831,417 — more than double the figure of 1958. The potato crop return set an all-time record.

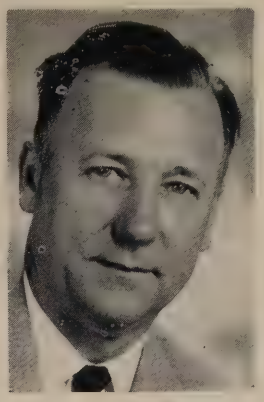
Alfalfa was in second place in 1959 and brought in $1,290,240, compared with only half that much in 1958.

Citrus production was in third place with returns of $1,263,686.

It was the first year in which apricots were not among the first three.



HUBERT RAYMOND



CARL NEUBAUER

WILLIAM W. WATSON

1756271

Anniversary Year Committees

Most of Hemet's Fiftieth Anniversary Year Celebration events have been planned and directed by special committees appointed by Mayor James Simpson.

Co-chairmen of the general committee are Hubert Raymond, city councilman, and Carl Neubauer, secretary of the Hemet Valley Chamber of Commerce. William W. Watson, manager of the Hemet branch of the Security-First National Bank, is coordinator of anniversary events and activities.

Active members of the steering committee are:

H. H. Spaulding, Robert E. Baumer, Harry O. Searl, Mrs. William Wiegard, Miss Violet Tapper, Mrs. Robert G. Record, Mr. and Mrs. Homer D. King, Mrs. Arthur Thorn, Bud Nelson, Clarence Swift, Leonard Schwacofer, Jr., William W. Watson, the Rev. Carl B. Johnson, the Rev. Richard Elzinga, the Rev. Francis L. Mullin, Mrs. Ralph Durler, Dr. Jacob F. Wiens, Mrs. Richard Miller, Lloyd Bancroft, Sr., Robert C. Record, Fred Tapper, Paul Carr, A. H. Arwedson, Mrs. Genevieve Moon, Mrs. Larry F. Harford, Mrs. Donald Fleming, Mrs. Frank Regur and Mrs. Donald Murray.

Most of the members represent valley organizations and many are members of pioneer families.

Also carried on the committee rolls are a number of citizens who are considered "honorary" members, the mayor said. Included in this list are the following:

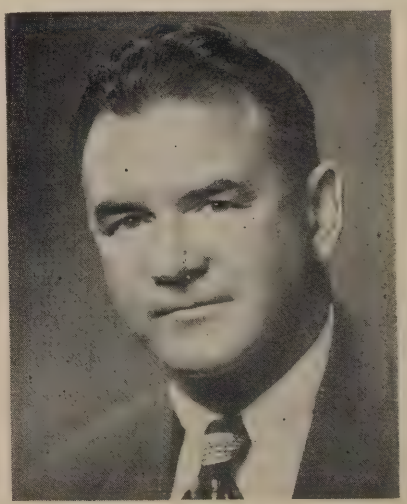
Miss Grace Weston, Mrs. Clark McEuen, Sidney C. Moon, J. C. Loomis, Lawrence G. Brubaker, Thomas J. Fletcher, Homer D. King, Milton R. Nims, Mrs. Veryn Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Ray R. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Miller, David K. White, Robert G. Record, D. W. Gauld, Dr. Wendell Robinson, Aleck Brudin, Frank Stetson, Mrs. Carl M. Thompson, Mrs. Charles W. Howard, Mrs. Clifford Handcock, Mrs. Frank Kelly, Judge Burr Van Housen, A. G. Silverthorn, Gilbert Spence, Viva G. LaRue and Mr. and Mrs. G. L. McClatchey.

A committee that has been functioning for the past few months and is rolling ahead full steam now is the historical committee, headed by Clarence Swift. Swift has been busy the past few months gathering old photos and information on early days in the community.

On the historical committee, besides Swift, are Mrs. Blanche Huntoon, Miss Grace Weston, Mrs. Clark McEuen, Homer D. King, Thomas J. Fletcher, Mrs. Veryn Dillon, Gilbert Spence, Miss Viva La Rue, Aleck Brudin, H. H. Spaulding, Miss Violet Tapper, Leonard Schwacofer, Jr., Mrs. Ralph Durler, Mrs. Robert G. Record, Fred Tapper, Henry Arwedson and Harry Heffner.

City Manager Paul E. Wilcox is cooperating in arrangements for the civic center dedication ceremony, the biggest event of Hemet's golden anniversary year.

CITY MANAGER—Paul Wilcox, Hemet's city manager, was a test pilot for the Ryan Aeronautical company at San Diego before coming to Hemet prior to World War II, to take an executive position with the local Ryan School of Aeronautics. He remained here after the war.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE—Mayor James Simpson of Hemet. In addition to his mayoralty duties, he is chairman of county airport commission. One of his dreams came true when ground was broken for Hemet's new civic center. He has much of the responsibility for city's Golden Anniversary celebration.

H. E. BOTHIN WILL ADD TO HIS IMPROVEMENTS ON BOTHIN PARK

2500 Orange Trees to be Planted—It is Believed Mr. Bothin Has Artesian Water

H. E. Bothin during his trip south last week, managed to stay a day in Hemet, but early in March he will return to stay longer. March he will buy 2500 orange trees to set out, provided he can get suitable trees.

Mr. Bothin is pleased to know there are so many nice houses going up and so much land selling. His cosily and elegant improvements on his Bothin Park have added greatly to the value of surrounding property of numerous land owners, and have enabled land agents to make many sales at advancing prices.

Mr. Bothin is much interested in the developments of underground water in the vicinity of his Bothin Park near his property on the north. J. H. Botterell is grading for the owners, Turner brothers, 200 acres to be sown to alfalfa and irrigated from wells. To the west of this property are the ranches of J. S. Jackson, Wm. Newenham and the ostrich farm, all irrigated from pumping plants. Several hundred acres in alfalfa will add to the beauty of the landscape as seen from the Bothin Villa.

The erection of Bothin Villa, the planting of lawns, flowers, trees, shrubbery and orange groves, have greatly stimulated building, have stimulated the buying of land. It is very gratifying to note that so many landowners near Bothin Park have caught the inspiration to help develop the valley. We allude to E. Bunker, the Turner brothers, J. S. Jackson, Messrs. Newenham and Hicks, the proprietors of the ostrich farm, and others.

It is believed Mr. Bothin has artesian water under his land and he can also get a large supply by pumping, if he ever decides to put down wells.

He is much interested in the proposed new railroad to Hemet and is consulted by parties interested in that enterprise, but had nothing to say for publication. He will return in March for a longer stay.

John Yates Received Nomination Last Week

John Yates wishes to announce that at the mass meeting of voters of the Hemet Union High School district last Friday he received the nomination. The other four nominees were W. S. Mudd, C. E. Carson, Daniel Myers and Tommy Rawson.

ELEVEN INCHES OF SNOW AT LAKE HEMET

Last Sunday eleven inches of snow fell at Lake Hemet, and at Idyllwild there was a foot of snow. Over ten million gallons of water pass daily over the top of the Hemet dam.

ONE OF SEASON'S MOST SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL EVENTS

The at-home given by Mrs. Alger Fast at Hotel Hemet Wednesday afternoon was the most successful of the season and the costumes of the ladies were very attractive.

There were eight tables for progressive whist. On each table were placed bonbon dishes of gold colored peanut shaped bonbons. Score cards had sprays of wild roses. The decorations were rose color and white, very effective and artistic, sprays of fruit blossoms. The color scheme was carried out in the refreshments. Rose colored petite berries, white ices cream and cake aut lait. To Mr. and Mrs. Visel credit is due for the perfect and delightful service.

Mrs. John M. Clayton and Mrs. E. E. Matthews won the prizes, a silver tea strainer and water cooler.

Those invited were: Meadames Botterell, Millington, Robert Matthews, Lamson, Stone of Valle Vista, Bricker, Byer, Wilson, Rickard, Amos, Harry Hill, Prime, Goodall, Green, H. L. Thompson, Goodhue, Boughn, Clayton, Herman Frank Thompson, Arthur Tripp, Dukes, Williken, McClatchey, Wedemeyer, Frau Wedemeyer, Stump, von Hemert, Wright, Rather, Kingsbury, William Hill, Visel, Gus Matthews of San Jacinto, McClure, Burnham, Bartlett, Dolland and Clarke.

Misses Anna Botterell, Wilson, Rickard, Anderson, Adelaide de Fremery, Stump, Gertrude Wright San Jacinto, Rives, Munn of Nellie Kingsbury, and Adelaide Clarke.

Sylvanus Brooke Died This Morning in Riverside

Sylvanus Brooke died this morning at his home in Riverside after

of pass through this fertile section.

RESULT OF ELECTION HELD LAST MONDAY

Workingman's League Elects Four Trustees. Hamilton Elected

There was much excitement all day Monday and a strenuous contest was waged between the "Workingman's League" and the "Good Government Club." Two hundred and twenty-one votes were cast and the vote for each candidate was as follows:

For trustees—

Brown	113
Grant	103
Bruce	24
Clayton	105
Frazier	99
Frank H. Holloway	128
John Isle	109
B. W. Van Winkle	112
Witter	110

John Isle, John M. Clayton, Frank H. Holloway, B. W. Van Winkle and T. S. Brown were elected.

For City Clerk

C. O. Hamilton	113
Geo. F. Bolton	98

C. O. Hamilton was elected.

For City Marshal

R. C. Warner	193

A single vote was cast for Rufee Swift, but he was not a candidate. R. C. Warner was elected.

For City Treasurer

Wm. L. Taylor, 202 votes. He was the only candidate, and was elected.

The "Good Government Club" succeeded in electing C. O. Hamilton city clerk, and T. S. Brown trustee.

The "Workingman's League" elected four trustees and the marshal and the treasurer. The "Good Government Club" was satisfied with the nominees of the "Workingmen's League" for treasurer and marshal, and therefore failed to run any one against them.

The election officers were Ed Dolland, clerk; Harris Walker, clerk; Paul Airey, ballot clerk; C. M. Dietrich, inspector, and C. B. Cozell and J. F. Fergusen, judges.

The business men and community generally are glad the contest is over and the city will have a rest from local political strife for two years.

When the town was organized the "Workingmen's League" nominated and elected all of the five trustees. On Monday the league elected four out of the five trustees, the fifth trustee was also their nominee when the town was organized.

The ticket elected is an anti-saloon ticket. There are no saloons in Hemet and no danger of there being any.

The ticket of the Good Government club was also a strong anti-saloon ticket. Peace, harmony and good fellowship should prevail in Hemet and in future should continue to prevail. Hemet is inhabited by a moral and progressive community. On Monday every candidate running for trustee was in favor of temperance and opposed to the saloon

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H. S. DUKES,

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6 tins Q
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PROFESSOR
T. B

...TIVITY ...LL PREVAILS

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...that the house will ... and no one of the ...mes in the valley ...l be used in the con...

...has already growing ...of beautiful flowers, ...rest. The grounds ... are artistically laid ...beautiful driveways ...bines.

...elegant home will ...nt back ground cov... ...arming landscape of ...

...neighbor, Abram ...ling his store build... ...cated by the Gault ...rstand that he is go... ...ne large store room... ...r near the sidewalk ...e glass front, set in ...a new entrance. It ...up one of the most ... in Hemet, W. H. ...contract.

...for the high school ...structed. A figure of ...the ground has been ...eams are handling ...ill arrive in car lots ...ters will push the ...ily.

...bungalow of Hansen ...bed and will soon be ...popular young man ...harming bride, soon.

...the Nicolson house ...Raymond Stroud did ...

...corner, opposite the ...is about finished.

...house on Carmelita ...eady for the painters. ...rill erect at once a ...tch near town.

...ceiving on many other

NEW MEAT MARKET

A. Anderson announces he will start a new meat market in the back end of his store in a few days.

four hours re... and in many instances are so fa... ably impressed that they remain over night. Who Said, "Hemet isn't becom... ing citified?"

OUR FIVE NEW CITY TRUSTEES

Are All Prominent Citizens and Taxpayers and Well Qualified for Position

T. S. Brown has been a prominent and public-spirited citizen of Hemet for many years. He is a notary public and successful real estate agent and owns numerous pieces of town and acreage property. He is highly esteemed for his integrity and is very popular. His standing in the community is very high, as he led all the candidates at the counting of the votes.

P. F. Witter is a prominent land owner, contractor and taxpayer. He owns both acreage and town property and has a fine reputation for honorable dealing. He has built numerous buildings and at present is finishing four stores on Florida avenue for H. E. Bothin, a San Francisco capitalist. He is a very capable contractor and universally respected.

John M. Clayton is manager of the Land and Water Companies and a very popular and capable young man and attorney at law. In organizing the new town his services as trustee will be very valuable. Mr. Clayton owns a fine home on Acacia avenue. He has the confidence of the community and his many friends anticipate for him a brilliant and honorable career.

J. M. Frazier is noted for his public spirit. He is president of the Hemet Deciduous Fruit Association and a very successful fruit grower. He owns a fine home and farm on Florida avenue. He has spent a great deal of time in trying to get a cannery erected at Hemet and finally concluded in conjunction with W. S. Mudd to start one. They propose to have it ready for the next fruit crop. The people feel that in Mr. Frazier they have a good trustee.

John Isle is Hemet's popular blacksmith, wagonmaker and horseshoer. He recently erected a big new building for his large business. He owns a fine home and considerable town property and employs several men. He is thoroughly reliable and very popular. Mr. Isle feels very happy over the fact that after so many years residence in Hemet the people like him so well and have such unbounded faith in him.

The new Fireside phonograph c... the Edison Co. has arrived and is a... P. M. Clarke's the Watchmak...

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One of ...tiated j... over 90. ...Diego c... fully cle... Rosa ra... this city ...into co... Vail es... the es... made ... Bes... prope... ranch... coun... zons... tain... 3,0... 00... str...

...at Crowded

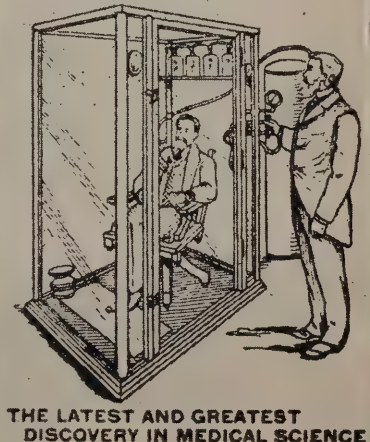
Remarkable Increase in Number of Patients Treated Continues.

PHYSICIANS KEPT BUSY

All Day Long Telling the Sick and Suffering How to Get Well.

MUNYON'S LIFE CHAMBER

Another Scientific Invention Added to the Modern Medical Appliances of His Office.



THE LATEST AND GREATEST DISCOVERY IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

FIFTY YEARS AGO—Three of the photographic reproductions on this page are from 1910 issues of The Hemet News. That was the year Hemet was incorporated and this year is the golden anniversary of that event.

HOCUS, POCUS, 1897—Some doctors (often called "quacks") made big money by claiming remarkable cures with this apparatus.

HEMET ABOUT 1908—This picture, taken from a point just north of the intersection of Harvard street and Latham avenue, shows the Hemet business district about 1908. At the extreme right is the old Santa Fe depot with townspeople waiting for the train to come in. The three-story brick building in the center is the old opera house. The two upper floors were shaken down in the earthquake of 1918 and the office of The Hemet News continued to occupy the lower floor. The stagecoach drawn by four horses in the center of the picture made daily trips between Hemet and Idyllwild. (Photo from Guy Ankrum's collection)

4000 Acres Traded for 22 Head of Cattle

Whittier, Thomas, Crawford, Romero Made History

No man could experience a greater thrill than that which would come to W. F. Whittier if he could walk the palm-shaded avenues of Hemet today. The city stands now as a living, growing monument to the foresight and courage of that one man who realized more than a half-century ago the magical change which water would bring to the rich, dormant soil of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley. It was he who built the dam to store life-giving water of the mountain areas to be released to the valley for irrigation use.

No account of the early days in this area would be complete without a mention of Charles H. Thomas. He was lured to California by tales of gold, in 1849, arriving in San Francisco after a long voyage around the horn. His daughter, Mrs. Victoria Brooke, is still living in Hemet.

Thomas entered this valley in 1861. He had discovered the Temescal tin mines and in selling that property had taken 200 cattle as a part payment. Through a party of prospectors he learned of the Lake Hemet section in the San Jacinto mountains and decided to put his cattle there. He bought 4000 acres of land from the Indians for 22 head of cattle.

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Until the early 1870's there was no development in this section. During that period there was an influx of settlers and the settlements of San Jacinto and Florida (Valle Vista) were started. Thomas had been here about 10 years at that time. Pancho Estudillo, owner of vast holdings in the valley, passed on and his land was sold piecemeal to settlers.

It was also about this time that a large company contacted Thomas with regard to water rights from Lake Hemet. It was planned to irrigate the entire section from Hemet to within three miles of Riverside, with Moreno as the main base of operations. That plan fell through when the main figure behind the enterprise died in Los Angeles.

In 1875 many new settlers came into this section, each family buying a tract from the Estudillo estate. Trading was done either at the San Jacinto or the Florida settlement.

Among the pioneers who came to the valley in that year was Joseph Crawford who bought 240 acres in the Florida section. Soon after his arrival he located at Oak Cliff. He found that a road was necessary, however, and in September, 1875, built a road to Strawberry valley, having secured a 50-year franchise from the board of supervisors of San Diego county when Pancho Estudillo was a member of that body from San Jacinto. The road cost Crawford $5500 and was opened as a toll road early in 1876.

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It was about the year 1890 that the possibilities of the city of Hemet became apparent. W. F. Whittier, a San Francisco capitalist, was the man to make the most of this. His interest in Hemet Valley was aroused by mere circumstance. In the early days he owned a ranch near Redlands and, driving through San Timoteo canyon one day in hunt of quail, he saw the undeveloped valley stretching below the peak of San Jacinto. In his mind's eye he could see the waters of the mountains conserved and brought down to the valley to quench the thirst of the parched soil.

Finding that a large section of the land could be purchased at a low figure, he decided that here could be founded a principality excelled nowhere for its adaptability to agriculture. In 1890 he started work on the great Hemet dam, having secured the rights to Lake Hemet.

It was also in that year that the first house was built in Hemet by Francisco Romero, a workman who came here with Handcock Johnson, foreman of the dam-building project. The house stood on West Florida avenue until two years ago when it was sold to the Dill Lumber company and torn down. Mrs. Mae Battin, a daughter of Romero, was the first white child to be born in what is now the city of Hemet. She died within the last year.

The dam was completed in 1895 and the following few years were spent in building flumes and pipe lines over the enormous acreage of the Hemet tract owned by Whittier. The lands were divided and sold with water stock.

many years he kept the business streets sprinkled by day and lighted by night, besides putting in culverts, grading and furnishing pipe and concrete free of charge.

The Hemet Opera House with its magnificent equipment of stage scenery, parlors and electric lights, was not erected by Mr. Whittier for a money making investment, but to benefit the community. The same is true of beautiful Hotel Hemet, with its charming palm grove and spacious grounds, its flowers, lawns and shrubbery. The religious sentiment is very strong in Hemet, and there are many liberal givers, but the churches know they did not apply in vain to Mr. Whittier when they wanted lots and afterward money to build churches.

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During the last few years, remarkable for the activity in the erection of hundreds of buildings in Hemet and surrounding country, Mr. Whittier has taken a prominent part. Few people realize the number of buildings he has erected in that time. Next to the Opera House the Bank of Hemet is admired by everybody. It is located in the center of town and has been more talked about and advertised than any building in the valley. It is a thing of beauty and the people are proud of it. It stimulates other land owners to put up finer buildings, both stores and residences. The costly and beautiful Bank of Hemet erected by Mr. Whittier has conferred a lasting benefit on the town.

It gives Mr. Whittier much pleasure to see the many beautiful new homes erected by land owners. It is a familiar saying that nothing succeeds like success and the president of the land and water companies has the fondest hopes that the present remarkable developments in planting trees and building houses will expand into grander proportions, because the utilization of the electric power of Lake Hemet and of the mountain streams will not be much longer delayed.

The building of the electric railroad to Riverside and Redlands, and in time the construction of a railroad through a rich back country to San Diego, are coming events that Mr. Whittier hopes to see accomplished. Hemet has many loyal citizens who are working with all their might for the development of the town and valley, and who have an abiding faith in their great future growth and development. He admires that spirit of emulation of "who best can work and best agree," in doing something for Hemet.

The good name and prosperity of Hemet are very dear to W. F. Whittier and by Hemet is meant the lands under the great Lake Hemet Water System.

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He has never ceased to work for the welfare of the town, but the time came when it was necessary for the merchants and property owners to assist. The Chamber of Commerce was organized and public spirited citizens took up a subscription to raise money, as in the absence of incorporation something had to be done. The town had grown so large and prosperous that it was an imposition to depend entirely on the never ending generosity of Mr. Whittier to do everything required, such as grading, cleaning and sprinkling streets, furnishing electric lights, etc. He also put in culverts, furnished pipe and drained the streets when the heavy rains came.

The help extended by the Chamber of Commerce is worthy of much praise, especially the work of the directors and officers who gave freely of their time and money.

The continued remarkable growth of Hemet in wealth and population made incorporation necessary. The public must have realized that fact for on January 11, 1910, the vote was four to one in favor of it. In the contest incident to incorporation Mr. Whittier was again in the front rank of property owners, who were working unselfishly for the good name of Hemet. Of all others he was the one to object to increase in taxes by reason of his costly enterprises. All of his suburban property and even his Stock Farm established for the good of Hemet, were included in the town limits, but he signed no protest and made no objection. His hope now is in common with that of other local taxpayers that Hemet will occupy an honorable place among the progressive communities of Southern California.

W. F. Whittier as the Hemet Valley Knew Him in 1910

Not all the dreams of W. F. Whittier, founder of Hemet and developer of Hemet valley, have come true. He visualized, for example, an electric railroad line connecting Hemet and Redlands and the use of the Hemet dam to generate electric power.

The following story about Mr. Whittier and his operations here appeared in The Hemet News in 1910, the year the city was incorporated:

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The name of W. F. Whittier, a prominent San Francisco capitalist, is inseparably connected with the history of Hemet. For twenty years with prodigious and persistent energy he has urged forward his magnificent enterprises. For many years he has associated with other capitalists, but one by one they passed away leaving him the only surviving partner, and now owner of the Great Hemet Dam, the Lake Hemet Water system and various other big enterprises.

He belongs to sturdy old New England stock and to a long lived family. Although advanced in life, he is remarkably healthy and full of energy and vigor. The hundreds of beautiful homes and gardens and thousands of acres in deciduous trees, oranges, olives, walnuts, alfalfa, etc., all under the Lake Hemet Water system are a source of never ending pleasure to him, for they are the beneficent results of his magnificent enterprises. His original investments called for the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but every year he continues to pay out large sums of money. He is noted for allowing nothing to go to decay, but everything is kept in excellent repair. His energies never lag and his new enterprises seem to be inexhaustible. Every year he plans and constructs something new.

His most notable enterprise last year was the establishing of the Hemet Stock Farm at an expenditure of over $25,000.00. He also constructed a big garage, planted orange groves, erected buildings, etc. In the past he has planted hundreds of acres of deciduous fruits, olives and oranges and assisted in establishing the Hemet Fruit Dryer and many other things.

A growing place like Hemet reveals many enterprising citizens, who are pleased to work for the public welfare. Hemet has numerous public spirited citizens, but Mr. Whittier is always in the lead, when the welfare of Hemet is considered. He has planted miles of shade trees in town and in the country along the public highways. He has constructed miles of public roads and for

Plowshare and Pruning Hook.

VOL. 1 WINCHESTER, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CAL., FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1891. NO. 14

RIVERSIDE ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE ARLINGTON HOTEL.

European and American Plan.

S. W. LUITWIELER.

Studebaker Farm Wagons, Agricultural Implements

McLAREN & KNAPP.

Horse Milliners & Mule Jewelers.

660 Main Street, Riverside, Cal.

WHY?

Do we do so much business?

Because we carry the largest stock in our line in Southern California, and sell reliable goods at lower prices. Glassware, Flour, Feed, Tea and Furnishing Goods.

GEO. N. REYNOLDS, Riverside, Cal.

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N. S. Hawes,

MUSIC AND ART STORE,

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Furniture, Carpets, Bedding.

Riverside Furniture Company

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AT BOTTOM PRICES.

G. ROUSE & CO

Dry Goods and Shoes!

THE ROWELL HOTEL

E. J. DAVIS, Prop.

Riverside California.

Free Bus to all Trains.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Undertaker. Embalmer.

Fruit Trees.

WHEN WINCHESTER HAD A NEWSPAPER—Before there was a town of Hemet, Winchester was a thriving community believed destined to be the largest in this section of Riverside county. It had two newspapers, a large general store and numerous other mercantile establishments. This is the front page of one of the newspapers, July 24, 1891. Today the Winchester business community consists of a country store, a service station and a pool hall. There is a community church and a Winchester Woman's club. The town started fading away when the Pleasant Valley Irrigation district, which was to bring water from Big Bear lake for irrigation, went bankrupt.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT—This was Florida avenue looking west from Girard street in 1905. (Photo from H. H. Spaulding collection.)

Do You Remember:

When you could buy a large sack of jelly beans for a nickel? For that matter, do the stores still sell jelly beans?

Do You Remember:

When you could buy a nickel's worth of candy and pass it around?

DAREDEVIL ROWELL — Elwin Rowell, early days Hemet automobile mechanic and garage owner (as a partner of Fred Tapper, Sr.), demonstrates Ford touring car on high school building steps.

FIRST HOUSE — Still standing until a year ago was this first house built within the city of Hemet. The occupants were Francisco Romero and his family. Romero was brought to Hemet by Handcock Johnson, associate of W. F. Whittier in the development of the valley. In later years he worked for the Lake Hemet Water company. House was on Florida avenue between Alessandro and Ramona streets.

BANK OF HEMET—This was the 1910 home of the Bank of Hemet, established 10 years earlier by W. F. Whittier, founder of Hemet, developer of the valley and builder of the Hemet dam. Later it became the First National Bank of Hemet, then the Hemet branch of the Citizens National Bank of Riverside, and is now the home of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Hemet.

IDYLLWILD STAGE—This was the horse-drawn stage that operated daily between Hemet and Idyllwild in the San Jacinto mountains about 1900. In background is old Hotel Hemet, destroyed by fire in 1917.

"ON THE SAME CORNER — THE SAME FINE SERVICE"

'1891 - 1960' Hemet's Pioneer Retail Merchant

Salutes the City of Hemet on its Fiftieth Anniversary

Here at the turn of sixty-nine years in business, honors and pays homage to the citizens who have played a keen part in the development of this valley of homes and agricultural prominence.

Hemet Valley has been the home of Gibbel's for sixty-nine years. The second and third generations are both represented here, and are building a Hardware and Housewares firm that we shall always, with your help, try to make the very best.

It seems, too, a proper time and place to take a new look at things as they are, and as they lie ahead. Let us try to recapture at least a part of the fearless, hearty spirit of the early pioneers, and let us complain less of "these troubled times." As good stewards, let us guard with jealous care the fertility of our soil, and preserve for posterity the fine wealth of resources with which Hemet Valley has so richly provided us.

Gibbel Hardware

102 EAST FLORIDA AVE. OLive 8-5193

● IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT AT GIBBEL'S YOU WON'T FIND IT ANYWHERE ●

FIRST TRAIN IN VALLEY—Above photograph from collection of Mrs. C. L. Emerson shows turnout of San Jacinto people in 1888 to welcome the first train into valley. The scene is near the present Santa Fe depot at San Jacinto. Recognized in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. John Cresmer and children, Mr. and Mrs. de Souza and children, Mrs. Harry Shilling, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Munn and Miss Addie Munn. Mr. Cresmer later moved to Riverside and became head of the Cresmer Manufacturing company there. Mr. Munn was editor of the newspaper at San Jacinto.

Brief History of Hemet-San Jacinto Area

American Settlers Began Arriving Here in Sixties

This is a brief history of what is now known as the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley for the period 1842 to 1900.

The town and valley name, San Jacinto, refers back to the original rancho San Jacinto, a Mexican grant of four leagues as bestowed in 1842 upon Don Jose Antonio Estudillo, and, as San Jacinto Viejo y Nuevo, in odd portion five leagues, awarded in 1846 to his daughter, Dona Maria del Rosario Estudillo y Aguirre, the wife of Don Jose Antonio Aguirre — another family of standing in Spanish California annals. The grant included the sites of San Jacinto and Hemet, the Valle Vista and Diamond valley sections, and what was to be known as the Big Byrne tract.

In the sixties American settlers began to enter the valley, the majority by way of San Bernardino, to try stock-raising and general farming.

In 1865 or shortly thereafter, there came from San Bernardino a Russian exile escaped from Siberia and named Prokko Akimo. He threw up a cabin of cottonwood logs in San Jacinto Old Town about a mile southeast of the present San Jacinto business district, and opened a trading store. The nearest supply points for the valley were San Bernardino and the trading post at the Temecula stage station of the old Butterfield line. The Akimo store was soon a popular resort for the valley settlers; in time it served as courtroom, postoffice and public hall. It advertised the spot and encouraged other building.

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The first American storekeeper in Old Town was H. T. Hewitt, whose name is attached to a San Jacinto street. He arrived in the opening years of the seventies. The settlement grew rapidly. Within a few years a townsite was laid out and there was a main street designated by an ambitious smattering of buildings, for the most part of brick.

The largest building was the brick Palma House hotel. The ground floor was rented to business tenants, and guests lodged above. Facing the street, on the ground floor, were the postoffice, a store or two, the saloon which played a prominent part in the local history and an office. In 1888 the hotel was destroyed by fire, but it was rebuilt and converted into a county hospital, which stood until 1899.

Across from the hotel was the impressive brick residence of J. C. Jordan, the husband of "Aunt Ri" of Ramona. This was exceptionally well built. The walls were filled with horseshoes, many wagon loads having been used in the construction.

Old San Jacinto was a typical western town. The saloon was the principal meeting place. A number of murders are recorded, and shooting scrapes were not in the least unusual. One of the notable killings was that of Frank Hamilton by Henry Marshall in the saloon. The shooting arose over a slight argument between the two men and was done in the presence of more than a dozen people then in the place.

During the "boom days" of Old San Jacinto, the community of Florida on the Hemet side of the valley was also coming into its own. An attractive little city had been laid out, including a brick hotel, a two-story brick residence and some 25 neat cottages. In a brick business block was a general store. The hotel was erected by M. G. Stone, as were many of the other buildings, and Mr. Stone is deserving of the title, "The Father of Valle Vista," for Florida was renamed Valle Vista. Florida was not properly situated to prosper, although the country around is some of the finest in the valley. The coming of the railroad left Florida isolated as a business center. The hotel was long operated by Mrs. Stone, whose chicken dinners were widely famed. When built it stood amid tropical greenery. The magnolia trees suggested its name, "The Magnolias."

Surveys for a railroad in 1886 promoted the birth of a new San Jacinto. The road did not build to Old San Jacinto, the survey and rails ran about two miles west of the town, with the result that business and population shifted over there. San Jacinto Viejo took second place to San Jacinto Nuevo.

The new town prospered. People were seeking lands and homes in the valley. The new townsite was laid out following the purchase, by capitalists, of 18,000 acres from the Estudillo family. The new town was incorporated April 9, 1888. By 1890 it and its environs claimed a population of about 1500. It had a bank with $100,000 capital, a $5000 schoolhouse, three good churches and one under construction, three large warehouses and brick buildings which provided about 25 storerooms. There was a newspaper. Among the professional men were three physicians and two dentists. There were three large general merchandise establishments, two each in the hardware and furniture lines, two blacksmith shops, four shoe stores or shops, three real estate offices, one millinery shop and one bakery. Only about 150 persons remained in Old San Jacinto, most of the residents having moved to the new town.

●

The country was rapidly being bought. Grain farming was the principal industry, although successful experiments were made with oranges, olives and deciduous fruits, principally on what is now the Hemet tract. Several orchards were doing fairly well without irrigation, but it was easily seen that the valley would never prosper as a fruit country without water to answer all needs. Surface water was plentiful at a depth of from seven to 30 feet — 83 artesian wells irrigated several thousand acres, and other wells were in prospect. But more extensive irrigation for the valley was planned in the early 90's by two companies.

The operations of the San Jacinto Land, Flume and Irrigation company, capitalized at $50,000, enlisted the "cienega" or swamp of the San Jacinto river, some four miles above the town. Five thousand miner's inches of water were filed upon. In years past, Spanish and Indian settlers had watered their stock at the cienega. During periods when the river was dry for miles above and below, there was a plentiful supply here. The cienega was about a quarter of a mile in length and extended entirely across the river. The water, when turned into the flumes of the company and carried down to the ranch lands, developed additional tracts and thus quickened the settlement of the valley.

The second great irrigation scheme proposed to build at the mouth of a gorge in the original Hemet Valley high up San Jacinto mountain, a granite dam at a cost of $150,000. The dam and basin should impound a lake three miles long covering 600 acres and averaging 6[illegible] feet in depth. This irrigation system was intended to develop the Hemet tract of the valley below. And it did.

With the irrigation system of the San Jacinto Land Flume and Irrigation company completed, the San Jacinto section of the valley forged ahead. By 1899 the city was one of the most thriving among the others of its size in Southern California.

●

The almost forgotten earthquake of 1899 came at 4:25 Christmas morning. It rolled in from the east, for a main shock which, heralded by a roar that awakened many sleepers, lasted 13 seconds. People not awakened by the warning rumble roused to find their houses swaying, plaster and dishes rattling to the floor, chimneys tumbling from the roofs; bricks and mortar crashed to the ground or fell inward. But the only loss of life in the vicinity was that at the Indian village of Soboba several miles east of town. The old people there had gathered for a Christmas fiesta, to last from Christmas eve until the next morning. The old adobe house collapsed, crushing three women to death and injuring a dozen other persons.

The brick buildings on the main street of San Jacinto were wrecked. Walls toppled, hardly a chimney was left, glass was shaken from the windows. The Kaufman store building and Baker's grocery, the postoffice and San Jacinto hardware company buildings, Mead's grocery and Daley's book store suffered severely. The county hospital, successor to the Palma House hotel in Old San Jacinto, was almost completely razed. Rooms were exposed to view by the fallen side walls.

Do You Remember:

When the Hemet gas works was on Oakland avenue across from the walnut packing house? It was before the days of natural gas in this valley. Claude Webber was principal owner of the Hemet-San Jacinto Gas company then. The gas maker was the late Joe Scaramella. That manufactured gas was stored in a telescoped tank to maintain pressure.

When the tire manufacturers guaranteed you 5000 miles wear if you bought their first grade tires? But there was no guarantee against punctures.

When Hemet butcher shops sold jerky, sun-dried strips of beef or venison? You could chew the stuff if you didn't elect to soak it in warm water and cook it. Prospectors in the early days could fix a pretty good breakfast from jerky gravy with hot biscuits.

When, in your childhood, you went into business for yourself — operating a lemonade stand out on the curb? Mom furnished the lemons, the sugar and ice, and probably she was your only customer.

The Days of Flora Finch and Bronco Billy Anderson

Valley's First Theater Owner Had Popular Daughters

By H. D. K.

Do you remember Hemet's first movie theater? The question comes from a woman.

Lady, we certainly do remember it. We remember it because the proprietor had several attractive daughters, at least two of whom were about our age, and in those off and on periods when we were dating them they could get us in free.

The theater was in a North Harvard street store building about where the postoffice was located in later years.

The proprietor was William F. Rensler. One of his daughters, Mrs. Guy B. Smith, a retired Hemet grade school teacher, still lives here.

The 50 years ago movie stars we remember best were John Bunney, Flora Finch and Broncho Billy Anderson, a real he-man who could have outdrawn any of television's western stars today.

Most of the pictures in those days were one-reelers. The films were supplemented by a program of illustrated songs by a soloist who sang from a sort of balcony just at the right of the screen. As we remember it, some of the art work thrown on the screen by the magic lantern in the projection booth wasn't too bad.

The soloist at Bill Rensler's Harvard street theater was Monte Jean (Don) Rather, daughter of Hemet's leading feed and fuel merchant. Her piano accompanist was Adelaide Clarke, daughter of a jeweler and watchmaker who brought his family here from New England shortly after the turn of the century.

She later became Mrs. Adelaide Clarke Fitzpatrick and still lives in Hemet. She was the original Senora Moreno of the Ramona Outdoor Play.

●

About 1914 Mr. Rensler built a new theater on Florida avenue almost directly across the street from the present Hemet theater. Some years later the old Bank of Hemet put the theater business in receivership and installed the late C. P. Carl, an officer of the bank, as receiver.

The late William Martin was a young carpenter in the valley who had saved his money. The bank management looked him up and sold him its white elephant. Everybody except Martin himself thought he had bought a lemon.

William Martin operated the theater successfully until his death about 10 years ago. People said his estate was in the neighborhood of a million dollars.

Today the theater is operated by Mr. Martin's widow and her son, Harold.

The coming of talking pictures in the mid-20's was a milestone in the movie business here as elsewhere. Until reminded about it the other day, we had forgotten that the first talkies were not full-length features. They were one-reelers of vaudeville acts, dance orchestras and hoofers. The sound came from a phonograph record synchronized with the picture, and, as often happened, if things got out of kilter, the show was a mess, with the players singing or talking either ahead or behind the sound. One of the first of these short talkies was a newsreel of Charles A. Lindbergh's welcome in New York on his return from his history-making flight to Paris.

The first full-length talking picture was, of course, Al Jolson's "The Jazz Singer." But perhaps you have forgotten that this film was not all talkie. Only the last reel was in sound, the voice beginning as Jolson knelt to sing "Sonny Boy" to the child actor in the story.

●

The Jolson talkie started the boom in the motion picture industry that lasted a quarter of a century.

The first all-talkie feature films came in 1926. There was John Barrymore in "Don Juan," and the first all-talking picture, "Lights of New York." They refilmed "Hell's Angels," which was originally made with sound effects but no voice. Later was to come "Wings," another thriller of the skies, and the first of the musicals with their long lines of dancing chorus girls and singing stars.

Today, because of television, movies are in the doldrums, and only a few really outstanding pictures are being made. Throughout the country thousands of former motion picture theaters are dark or are being torn down. People still like the movies, but they are so much more comfortable watching television at home. The drive-in theaters are said to be doing fairly well, but whether the patrons attend because they want to see the picture, because they just want to breathe the cool night air, or for still another reason is a question debated whenever the drive-ins come up for discussion.

San Jacinto's first motion picture theater was owned and operated by the late Ed Dunham, veteran rural route mail carrier who also, at one time or another, operated a livery stable, a roller skating rink and a garage. He always kept his mail route as his ace in the hole. In the mid-20's San Jacinto's Hopi Indian style Soboba theater was built by Oscar S. Hofmann and L. A. Reynolds. Hofmann had the money and Reynolds the idea. The Soboba had a spectacular opening, and soon the intensive competition between it and Martin's Hemet theater was resulting in the valley enjoying better entertainment fare than any other community of similar size in Southern California.

The theater managers sought to obtain the best pictures possible immediately following their metropolitan openings. Long-time contracts with Paramount and one or two other major producing companies gave the Hemet theater an advantage in the film market. To combat this situation the Soboba put in live vaudeville one or two nights a week and often performers on the Soboba stage were right off the Orpheum or Keith circuits.

When Mr. Reynolds dropped out of the Soboba management he was succeeded by Harry D. Hofmann, son of the owner of the theater property. Eventually, because the competition was giving them too many gray hairs, the Martin and Hofmann families got together and William Martin bought the Soboba. He operated it for a number of years in addition to his Hemet theater, but finally closed it when a drive-in theater was opened midway between Hemet and San Jacinto and the Hemet theater was faced with a new kind of competition. Within a few years the Martin family bought the drive-in and now has a monopoly on the theater business in the valley.

DOWNTOWN HEMET 55 YEARS AGO—This was Hemet's Harvard street, looking south, in 1905. One block was the entire business district.

301-303
E. Florida Ave.
IN DOWNTOWN
HEMET

Save on Well Known Brands:

Bigelow Carpeting

Simmons Bedding

Mersman Tables

Berkliner Recliners

YOU'LL DO BETTER AT

BIGELOW'S

"GOOD FURNITURE SINCE 1920"

Easy Monthly Payments
Take Up to
2 Years to Pay!

Save on Well Known Brands:

Stratolounger Recliners

Samson Bridge Sets

KROEHLER
LIVING ROOM
BEDROOM
DINING ROOM

Michigan Hard Maple

The Hemet News Put Out a Midnight Extra

Exciting City Council Recall Election in 1913

Hemet's first and only recall election was on April 17, 1913.

A so-called Good Government league sponsored a city council ticket made up of Dr. B. R. Sprague, William Bruce, Robert Creighton, W. F. Riesland and H. C. Draves.

The opposition ticket, more liberal in its views, was composed of H. H. Spaulding, Hugh P. Shaw, John M. Clayton, B. W. Van Winkle and J. M. Frazier.

Four of the candidates—Sprague, Bruce, Clayton and Van Winkle—were members of the city council and were making a fight against their recall. The opposition to Sprague and Bruce was based upon their votes in favor of the allowance of a $770 detective bill presented to the council by former City Marshal George W. Stevens, alleged to be due him for special services in connection with prosecution of liquor violations.

The charges against Clayton and Van Winkle stemmed from alleged indifference in the manner of securing proper inspection of the construction work on the sewer system. Clayton and Van Winkle claimed that the recall invoked against them was purely retaliatory and that there was no real basis for the charge.

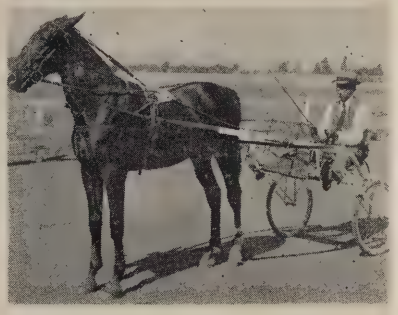
The election resulted in the recall of Sprague and Bruce, while Clayton and Van Winkle were vindicated. The majority for Clayton was 10, while Van Winkle had only three votes to the good.

H. H. Spaulding was elected to replace Dr. Sprague on the council and Hugh P. Shaw was named to succeed Mr. Bruce. E. L. Smith, Hemet grocery store owner, had resigned from the city council rather than go through the recall election campaign, so a special election was necessary to name a successor to him. The two candidates seeking election to succed Mr. Smith were H. C. Draves and J. M. Frazier. Mr. Draves was elected, 200 to 194.

EARLY SCHOOL BUILDING—Hundreds of Hemet's adult citizens of today obtained their grade school education in this first elementary school building on Alessandro street. (Photo from H. H. Spaulding collection)

FIRST HIGH SCHOOL—In this building some of Hemet's prominent citizens of today received their high school education. The building stood at the corner of Buena Vista street and Acacia avenue. (Photo from H. H. Spaulding collection)

THE ICEMAN COMETH—Al Silverthorn at the wheel of Valley Ice and Laundry company truck about the time Hemet was incorporated. In earlier days he had been driver of the horse-drawn ice wagon.



EARLY RACER — Frank Holloway, first manager and trainer at W. F. Whittier's Hemet stock farm, home of some of California's fastest harness racehorses shortly after the turn of the century.

LANDMARK—For many years the Ed Griffith home at the corner of Santa Fe and Acacia was a valley landmark. It was razed to make room for a residential subdivision development about 1953. Mr. Griffith was an early days teamster who helped build many Hemet streets.

THE IRON HORSE — This locomotive pulled train between San Bernardino and San Jacinto early in this century.

Do You Remember:

When street sprinkling wagons watered down the dust of unpaved streets in the Hemet business district on hot summer afternoons?

HEMET BRAND

SALUTES THE

City of Hemet

ON ITS

Golden Anniversary

A Home Owned Institution
for the Packing and Marketing of

- APRICOTS
- PEACHES
- OLIVES
- NECTAR
- SPINACH

. . . and other products of the orchards and farms of Hemet Valley.

Hemet Packing Co.

Growing --- Canning --- Distribution

George Straw Remembers Christmas, 1899, Earthquake

No Work Horses or Mule Teams Found in Valley Today

Would you like to rent a team of work horses and a man to drive them?

Well, you may have to look farther away than the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley to fill such an order.

According to M. B. Cronley, Vista way homeowner, he looked for a week and couldn't find a work team in this part of Riverside county.

"Almost everybody of whom I inquired referred me to George Straw of West Devonshire avenue," said Mr. Cronley. "If anybody had a team of work horses, it would be him, they told me.

"When I called at his ranch home he told me he had sold his last work team (mules) a year ago, and he didn't believe I could locate a team anywhere in the valley today. He was right."

GEORGE W. STRAW

George Straw, now 87, is one of the few remaining old-time teamsters in this part of the country. He retired from his teamster work when he sold the team mentioned above.

Using his own horses — sometimes as many as six of them drawing one wagon or heavy piece of other equipment — he handled the grading of many of Hemet's and the valley's first streets.

Sixty years ago George Straw and the late S. E. Yoder were the principal grading and land-leveling contractors here.

Hemet has a "sturdy pioneer" in George W. Straw, who is about as sturdy today as when he arrived in Hemet in 1899 to devote his time to grain ranching, hauling logs, moving houses, clearing land and other such strenuous activities.

George Straw was born near Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in 1874. He stayed there, working on the family farm, until he was nearly 21. Early in 1895, inspired by that go-west-young-man urge, which was as prevalent then as now, George arrived in California, and worked on farms and wheat ranches in the Ventura area.

Two years later, completely sold on California, George persuaded his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Orin F. Straw, to leave Ohio and join him. Shortly after the arrival of the Straw family in Ventura, the family heard magnetic tales of the attractions to be found in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley. They came here, saw that the attractions did indeed exist, purchased a 20-acre ranch at the corner of Dartmouth and Mayberry, and opened a small dairy.

Straw became a definite part of the city's growth. Fresh in his mind are some of the early day occurrences that distinguished Hemet.

"I'll never forget Christmas, 1899 when at 4:30 a.m. there was an earthquake of great proportions, yet other areas did not experience it. All the buildings were shaken down and two brick buildings in San Jacinto also fell down," he said.

Hemet's "sturdy pioneer" declares that the biggest boom in his teaming business occurred around 1904 and 1905, when he started hauling houses away from Winchester.

It then seemed that almost everyone who had a house in Winchester wanted it moved somewhere else. There had been several dry seasons in a row. Winchester's misfortune was good fortune for George Straw. He and his teams kept busy, moving houses. Most were transported to Hemet, Perris and San Jacinto. One was teamed as far as Riverside. The biggest job of all was that of moving the Winchester hotel, a half at a time, to the Domenigoni ranch, where it still stands after long use as a ranch house.

Back in those early years in Hemet, George Straw apparently did not consider that the heavy work he was doing during the week was enough to take up the slack in his surplus energy, so he spent much weekend time playing baseball.

Straw was broadminded about whether he played on the Hemet team or San Jacinto's. He started out some seasons with the Hemet club, and terminated them with San Jacinto's. Or, sometimes it was vice versa. This was not uncommon among the local ball players.

Working and playing baseball did not exhaust quite all of George Straw's energy back in that earliest decade of the century. Two or three times a year the urge to travel would possess George and he would mount his red Rambler bicycle and pedal off to Los Angeles and Ventura. He started from Hemet about six in the morning, and reached Los Angeles before dark.

"It wasn't hard," George says, "Of course, 50 years ago you didn't have much traffic to watch out for. I could bicycle into Los Angeles today just as easy, if it wasn't for the traffic. My legs are as good as they ever were."

In 1908 George Straw and Miss Eugenia Florina were married. Miss Florina, born in Italy and reared in France, came to Hemet in 1906 to live with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Castro. Uncle Ed was one of Hemet's first barbers.

George met and courted Miss Florina during the time she was working in Wedemeyer's drug store. Upon marrying, she retired from the pharmacy and kept house for her husband in the several little homes they established before, in 1915, they settled on the ranch where they now reside.

Do You Remember:

When minstrel show bands would parade through town to advertise the nightly performance, usually under a tent but sometimes at the opera house?

When Hemet grocery stores and butcher shops had those electric fans with wide blades hanging from the ceiling? They didn't seem to keep down the temperature very much, either. They were supposed to discourage the flies.

When you had your own backyard cooler to keep the butter from melting and the milk from souring? It was quite simple, just a frame covered with screen over which you draped a watersoaked piece of burlap. Then you'd hang it out under a tree to keep it in the shade.

When Hemet barber shops stayed open until noon on Sundays, and until midnight on Saturdays? Those were the days when every barber shop had a bathtub or two in the back room — and on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings there was usually a line-up of customers waiting to use them.

VALLEY BOWLING CENTER
Catering to Family Bowling
CALL OL 8-3738 ASK FOR JACK STEWART
Valley Bowling Center
129 N. Carmalita Hemet

HEMET MATTRESS & UPHOLSTERING CO.
WM. J. BADER, Prop.
Since 1937
Draperies — Carpeting — Awnings
Upholstering
Furniture and Mattress Manufacturing
575 N. San Jacinto St. Hemet, Calif.
OLive 8-5197

D&M ANTENNA CO.
DON DICKINSON
T.V. REPAIR!
MAINTENANCE — PARTS
INSTALLATION
Hi-Fi, Radio and Television
Homes — Motels — Trailer Courts
Master Antenna Systems
1460 E. Acacia OL 8-2510
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

SERVING THE VALLEY FOR 32 YEARS
YOUR GENERAL ELECTRIC DEALER
San Jacinto Electric 201 W. Main Ph. OL 4-4061
Hemet Valley Electric 309 E. Florida Ph. OL 8-3445

FIRST PACKING HOUSE—Interior of He met's first orange packing house in 1905. It was in the 100 block on South Inez street. Workers shown in the picture included: Mrs. Lulu Dryden, George Johnson, C. G. Hamilton, Mrs. Victoria Brooke, John O'Loan, Arthur Hamilton, Galer Webster, Harold Dryden (now an executive of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company), Jennie Van Luevin and Mabel Sheppard Spencer. (Picture from Mabel Spencer collection)

VICTORIA BROOKE NEAR CENTURY MARK

Mrs. Victoria Brooke, who is believed to have lived in this area longer than any other present resident, will celebrate her ninety-fourth birthday anniversary in December of this year.

Mrs. Brooke, born Victoria Thomas, December 5, 1866, in Temecula on a large ranch owned by her father, moved to the family holdings in the San Jacinto mountains as a small child and except for a few years shortly after she was married, has resided here since.

Thomas mountain, near Lake Hemet, was named for her father and he sold to W. F. Whittier, about 1888, the land on which the dam was built to form Lake Hemet.

The pioneer, still active both physically and mentally, is proud of the fact that she is into her tenth decade and "is going to try to reach 100 years of age."

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Although confined at times by illness, "I'm busy and very happy," she said. Her recipe for a long life includes "doing for other people and being kind to them." She also believes in the power of prayer and keeps a small Catholic altar, formerly owned by her mother, in her tiny home, located behind the 120 West Latham avenue residence she has owned for many years.

She has spent most of her life helping others, refuses to believe that there is such a thing as a totally bad person and says that "living a good clean life" is the best possible way of doing things.

Although "a little shaky," she makes stuffed stocking toys for Christmas gifts, paints pictures on cloths, crochets and knits. She also walks, when she feels up to it, visiting friends and comparing the town with the Hemet which she knew so long ago.

Her father, who came from Bloomington, New York, in 1849, purchased ranch property at Temecula and at the San Jacinto mountain location now known as the Garner ranch. He helped survey land for the Hemet townsite and the Idyllwild community, Mrs. Brooke recalls.

She was one of 12 children.

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Mrs. Brooke remembers that there "was nothing here" when the family first settled in the Hemet Valley. She was married at Los Angeles in 1883 to Frank Brooke. The young couple first resided in San Bernardino, where he worked for the Santa Fe railroad.

When they returned to Hemet there were about five houses in the area. They started with a two-room residence at what is now 120 West Latham avenue, and added to it from time to time. Her husband was employed by the Lake Hemet Water company and later was foreman of a ranch at Santa Maria.

Since there was no other place in the valley large enough to house lodgers, she took in various workers. "There wouldn't have been light, gas and sidewalks here if it hadn't been for us," she laughingly says in speaking of some of the crews which ate and slept at her house.

Food was cheap and a lodger could live high for $4 a week for room and board. She remembers that she purchased eggs for 10 cents a dozen, chickens for 25 cents each and the best potatoes for 50 cents a sack. "The biggest and best roast I could find cost around $1.50," she said.

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Her husband died about 20 years ago. Both of their children, William Brooke and Florene Brooke Elliott, are deceased, but four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren are still living.

She attends Our Lady of the Valley Catholic church and is active in affairs of the Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, an interest she has sustained since the early days of her marriage. She also attends meetings of the home department of the University of California agriculture extension service.

"I have no regrets," she says in speaking of her long, full life.

Bautista Came Here

Coming from the southwest, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza, Spanish explorer and colonist who started from Tubac, Mexico, crossed what is now the Hemet-San Jacinto valley, on his historic journeys of 1774 and 1775.

Congratulations Hemet on Your Golden Anniversary
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IT IS NOW PROPER TO SAY THE "CITY OF HEMET"---WATCH US

Incorporation Carried by a Big Majority at the Election Held Last Tuesday---List of Officers and Votes for Each

The town of Hemet was incorporated on Tuesday by a majority that was surprisingly large. The vote in favor of incorporation was almost four to one.

One hundred and seventy-seven votes were cast of which 130 were for incorporation and 33 against.

Quite a number of votes were thrown out, owing to technicalities of law, such as marking ballots, etc.

Officers-Elect

Trustees—T. S. Brown, John M. Clayton, P. F. Witter, J. M. Frazier and John Isle.

Marshal—E. C. Warner.

Secretary—C. G. Hamilton.

Treasurer—J. H. Scales.

Vote in Detail for Trustees

T. S. Brown had 140 votes; John M. Clayton, 105; P. F. Witter, 104; J. M. Frazier, 101, and John Isle, 97, and were elected trustees.

For Marshal

Warner, 118; Carner, 34, Castaday, 10.

For Town Clerk

C. G. Hamilton, 104; Dietterich, 58.

It was remarkable to see numerous citizens working and voting for incorporation who had previously been working against it. There was a pronounced change of sentiment in favor of municipal incorporation a short time before election. Two tickets were in the field and the effort to get control of the new town seemed to make votes for it.

It was known the members of the fire department had worked hard for the new town, for they saw the urgent necessity of having sufficient funds to provide protection against fire. The big favorable vote came largely from the working men, those who work for wages and believe the new town would furnish additional employment to laborers and mechanics. The adverse vote came largely from town lot owners and those who own small acreage property within the town limits. They feared increased taxation. At the same time many landowners and prominent taxpayers were strong advocates of incorporation.

At a mass meeting of citizens, held January 3, ten prominent citizens had been nominated for trustees

Subsequently two tickets were formed from the ten names: The Workingmen's League was organized, held several meetings and selected five names out of the ten and worked hard for the success of their ticket, which was elected.

Another ticket, favorable to the church and temperance element was put in the field. This ticket contained four of the five names on the Workingmen's League ticket. These four were, of course, elected, because they were on all tickets. They were Messrs. Brown, Witter, Frazier and Isle. The fifth man elected was John M. Clayton, manager of the Hemet Land and Water Companies.

The two organizations above alluded to controlled the situation. The four candidates for trustees who failed to get the support of either had no prospect of success. There was no contest on four names, because they were on both tickets. The fight on the fifth name resulted in a victory for the Workingmen's League.

The officers-elect will serve till their successors are elected and qualified in April. It would have saved both time and expense if arrangements had been made to postpone incorporation till the time fixed by law to elect officers for a full term. Only a small part of what is known under the name of Hemet has been organized into a town. The supervisors marked out about 85 per cent of the territory originally asked for.

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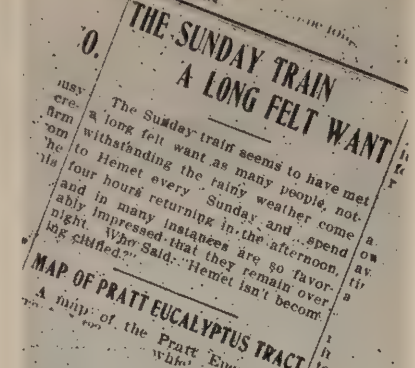

THE PROPOSED NEW RAILROAD ANNOUNCED

The Redlands correspondent of the Los Angeles Examiner has the following to say about the electric line to Hemet:

"Articles of incorporation have been prepared and will be filed early in the week for the construction of an electric railroad from a point near Hemet, through the San Jacinto and a portion of the Perris valleys and to Moreno, a distance of about twenty miles.

"The line will be the first part of a road that later will connect either with Redlands or Riverside. It is the culmination of a movement started by capitalists two years ago and abandoned temporarily because of the financial stringency. The men behind the movement are Los Angeles, Redlands and Hemet capitalists. The road will give transportation to a large section of fine country.

"A. G. Hubbard, a millionaire capitalist of Redlands, is one of the prime movers in the enterprise. Another is E. H. Grigsby, formerly of Redlands but now a banker in Santa Monica. He has recently filed upon about 300,000 inches of water on the north slope of the San Jacinto mountains and will build an immense power house at Florence, a town about seven miles from Hemet, to furnish power for the electric line and other enterprises in that section. The Los Angeles syndicate that has purchased some land and signed up several hundred acres more in the Moreno and Lakeview section for beet planting and which plans for a factory at Hemet or San J

FIFTY YEARS AGO—Reproductions on this page are from 1910 issues of The Hemet News.

REMEMBER THE OIL WELL FEVER?

Whenever the editor picks up an old copy of The Hemet News he finds in it accounts of local happenings that arouse nostalgic memories. Recently he picked up an issue of August 7, 1931.

The first paragraph of one of the Page 1 news stories contained only 11 words, as follows: "They dropped the curtain at the Hemet oil well this week."

The story went on to say that the drilling project to which hundreds of Hemet Valley property owners and investors had pinned their faith was definitely abandoned.

The Hemet Petroleum company had spent approximately $110,000 in drilling the well to a depth of 3626 feet on the A. B. Ward ranch in the Fruitvale district.

The same paper reported that gold mining activities in the Kenworthy district, southeast of Hemet, were being watched with interest by mining men throughout Southern California. Some of the Hemet men who had invested in the oil well now had cases of "gold fever" and had become prospectors. The Penrod mine, across the ridge from Kenworthy, was said to be operating a mill and making regular gold shipments. Fred Patton and Frank Gray of Idyllwild were working several claims.

Aleck E. Brudin was Hemet's mayor and Jay C. Loomis and Robert G. Record were on the city council.

Hemet was mourning the death of Clyde M. Dietterich, veteran city clerk. Following his death an interesting discovery was made that revealed the character of this beloved public official.

Some months earlier the council had prevailed upon Mr. Dietterich to accept appointment as municipal judge, succeeding A. T. Brown, who was forced by illness to relinquish the office.

In checking over the city books members of the council found that although Mr. Dietterich had handled all the work of the city court since his appointment, Judge Brown was still on the city payroll.

As city clerk, Mr. Dietterich wrote all city warrants, and instead of making out a monthly salary warrant to himself as municipal judge, he had each month written the warrant in the name of A. T. Brown, the bed-ridden former judge.

In writing about it 29 years ago, the editor of The Hemet News said: "We could devote this entire column to a defense of this juggling of the city's books — but we think the people will agree that it needs no defense."

SOME OF THE TRIPPS—This is a picture of one branch of the Hemet Valley's pioneer Tripp family. It is the William B. Tripp family on the front porch of their South State street home 50 years ago. The picture was taken by early days photographer Si White. William Tripp's two brothers, Shasta and Ozzie, also fathered large broods. "Uncle Dan" Tripp, who died at San Jacinto a few years ago, was a half brother of Shasta, Ozzie and Will, and he also had numerous sons and daughters. Photo is from Mrs. Albert Eggen's collection. Those shown are: Back row: Bert, deceased, Rose (Mrs. Grant Morse, deceased); Grant Morse, deceased; Roy, deceased; Mrs. Arthur Tripp, deceased; Arthur Tripp, Edith (Mrs. William Bradford) and Mr. Bradford, deceased. Front row: Hester (now Dr. Hester Olewiler), Xeva (now Mrs. Elliott), Ruth (now Mrs. Donald J. Fleming), Anne (now Mrs. Anne Williams) and Iris (now Mrs. Albert W. Eggen). Seated on steps: Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tripp, holding baby son Darrell. Boy at bottom of steps is Leslie Thompson, who lived across the street.

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TONSORIAL PARLOR, 1915—This was Charlie Randall's Harvard street barber shop 45 years ago. Standing, left to right, unidentified porter, Mr. Randall, Elmer Richey and Virgil Merritt.

Barber Shops Were Civic Centers in Good Old Days

When we entered a Florida avenue barber shop the other day, the man behind the second chair looked familiar and he seemed a bit disturbed when we failed to recognize him immediately.

Well, we won't keep you waiting. He was Ray Spence, a graduate of the late Charlie Randall's Harvard Street Barber college in the class of 1919. He worked here as a journeyman barber and in the late 20's was a partner of William T. Mincer in a shop at the southwest corner of Florida avenue and Carmalita street.

After a few years Ray sold out to Mr. Mincer and traveled around the world, working at his trade wherever he went. Now he has come home and again has his own shop.

In the days when Ray Spence first began barbering here the tonsorial parlors were civic centers — here and everywhere across the wide reaches of the land. If you wanted to know anything — on almost any subject — you would drop into the barber shop. Early day barbers were not necessarily gossips but they were conversationalists; you would pick the subject and they would discuss it.

Conversation never lagged. The drummers (traveling salesmen to you) brought in the newest of the ribald stories. The sporting men of the town made the barber shop their headquarters and the shop owner held the stakes when bets were made.

On a long shelf opposite the chairs in the small town barber shops of those days were the private shaving mugs of the more important patrons. Most of these mugs had on them the owner's name in gold lettering.

■

Shaves were 15 cents, haircuts 25 cents, and in the back room was a bathtub you could use for a quarter. On Saturday nights there was a waiting line for use of the tub.

Up to 1920 there was at least one genuine barber shop quartet in Hemet. It was organized by Charlie Randall, who also organized and directed a mandolin and guitar orchestra. Among the orchestra members were Glen Brubaker, Thomas J. Fletcher and Robert Q. Shepard. Charlie had the agency for Gibson stringed instruments and unless you bought your instrument from him you weren't eligible for the orchestra.

The old-fashioned barber shop has disappeared and in its place is a depressing mausoleum of white tile and chromium where, as likely as not, one's favorite chair is occupied by a 48-year-old blond getting a finger wave.

Gone is the unpretentious shop with its cabinet of private shaving mugs. Gone, also, are the tall brass cuspidors that used to adorn the place. If a customer these days wants to spit, he has to walk out of the shop and across the sidewalk to the curb. Gone, too, are the pictures, like the one of "Custer's Last Stand," that occupied the wall spaces, and gone are the copies of the Police Gazette with its sensational photographs of the behind-the-footlights beef trust. On the pink pages of that famous periodical of other days were found, also, the likenesses of Joe Gans and Battling Nelson and others of a bygone pugilistic era.

■

When this writer came to Hemet in 1910 there were two barber shops — Charlie Randall's on the east side of Harvard street, and another owned by William Servoss on the west side.

Later barbers we knew well were William T. Mincer, who died in Redlands after barbering in Hemet more than 40 years; Frank Gazzola, who came from San Bernardino about 1914; Max Dixon, a local boy who learned his trade under Mr. Randall; Scott Carl, who first worked for Randall and later owned his own shop; Elmer Richey, now retired, and Frank Sebastian, whose brother was at one time chief of police and later the mayor of Los Angeles.

Until his sudden death a year ago, Hemet's senior working barber was Leo Tittle, who came here about 1922.

Still operating his shop at San Jacinto is Clyde Starbuck, who opened it in 1906. His brother, Charles, followed him to the valley six years later and the pair were partners until Charlie's retirement a few years ago.

The Starbuck brothers came to California from Indiana in 1902, going first to Los Angeles, where they rented a room together at Sixth and Maple for $1.25 per week. They bought meal tickets good for 33 meals for $3. They earned approximately $1.50 for a day's work.

The Starbuck brothers were among the first barbers in Riverside county to purchase electric clippers.

Clyde for many years held the unofficial title of billiards champion of San Jacinto. His closest competitor was the late E. T. Tanner, who at various times served as San Jacinto's mayor, postmaster and chief of police.

The late Charlie Randall, whose widow still lives here, opened his shop in 1909, after coming from Shenandoah, Iowa, where he learned his trade.

REMEMBER HIM?—How many of today's Hemet News readers could identify the gentleman seated so comfortably in the picture above, if we shouldn't tell them in the next sentence? He's the late Charlie Randall, popular Harvard street barber shop owner for 40 years. The photo is from the collection of William W. Evans, former Hemet News photographer, now retired.

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Traveling Salesman Dated Farmers' Daughters

LIFE WAS SIMPLER 50 YEARS AGO

By HOMER D. KING

We are reminded that 50 years ago we got off the train at Hemet's old red depot and first saw the town that we have since called home. We were wearing our first long pants suit. With us was a six-months-old collie pup named Fritz. In the baggage car on the long trip westward he had chewed the identification tags from four trunks and two boxes containing corpses being shipped for burial.

The palm trees that are now taller than the store buildings on Florida avenue were then less than three feet high. The Hemet News office was in a frame building just east of the present Bigelow furniture store location. One of the presses was operated by water power. You fastened one end of a hose to a hydrant and the other end to the press. Results were amazing. Another press was operated by a gasoline engine. There were fewer than six automobiles in the valley and no motor vehicle had yet negotiated the mountain grade to Idyllwild. Traveling salesmen dated Hemet's two telephone operators.

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E. C. Warner was city marshal. Local option prevented open sale of liquor but the drug stores did an excellent back-door business.

The triangle building at the corner of Harvard and Front streets was two stories with Ferguson's hall upstairs. It was used jointly by the W.C.T.U. and the Eagles lodge. The building in which The Hemet News was formerly located was three stories with an opera house on the second floor and the Odd Fellows lodge hall on the third floor. There were vast open spaces in the center of town.

A presidential election campaign was getting under way and resulted in sending Woodrow Wilson to the White House. Champ Clark made a speech here for the Democratic ticket. Peter Milliken, a former publisher of The News, was a Republican candidate for the state assembly. Nobody had heard of Communists then but the Socialist party had a large political following throughout the valley and a couple of members on the city council. On election night in 1912 the Democrats held a torchlight parade and burned red fire in the streets.

Electricity was generated at a steam plant on Latham avenue. Guy Ankrum was the powerhouse foreman.

The Hemet Stock farm was already the home of world's champion harness horses. H. P. Herman, now deceased, was secretary of the Hemet Driving club which held matinee meetings at the stock farm Saturday afternoons. He was just out of Harvard.

W. F. Rensler was operating Hemet's first motion picture theater in the Harvard street building vacated two years ago by the postoffice. Miss Don Rather sang the illustrated songs and Miss Adelaide Clarke was pianist. John Bunny and Flora Finch were popular screen stars.

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Glen Brubaker was beginning a high school athletic career which carried him to state shotput and hammer-throwing championships. Maure Hurt was trying out for second base on the San Jacinto high school baseball team Edgar T. Boughn was serving his last year as Hemet high school principal. Loyd Wright, now a prominent Los Angeles attorney and recent president of the state bar association, was jerking sodas in his father's Harvard street drugstore. William Bradford and Charlie Ticknor owned the first automobiles in the valley. Bradford was an early postmaster and Ticknor had a furniture store in the former Hemet News location. The original Ramona was a tourist attraction. In the summer she came down from the Cahuilla reservation to work in the fruit harvest.

The present high school building had just been completed and the old one was still standing at the corner of Buena Vista street and Acacia avenue. Flossie Williams and the Lockwood sisters were the glamour gals of San Jacinto. John Shaver was county supervisor. Gus Mathews was brakeman on the Santa Fe train. In the real estate business were William Kingham, T. S. Brown, John Deegan and Lee Sheppard. W. L. Taylor was reporter, advertising salesman and collector for The Hemet News and city treasurer in his spare time.

We lived first at the old Hemet hotel, then operated by D. D. Whitten. Amos Churchill and J. O. Percival came from Santa Monica and bought the Valley Laundry and Ice company. C. B. Covell was in the Farmers and Merchants bank and J. H. Scales was cashier of the Bank of Hemet. There were two undertaking firms, Roulston & Kiel and Owen & Turner. Gilbert Spence and his brother operated one livery stable and F. S. Church another. R. G. Swift was in the harness shop business. Grocers included E. L. Smith, H. M. Bartlett and D. W. Gauld. E. R. Carrillo, brother of Leo Carrillo, stage and screen star, was a dentist here He was an amateur hypnotist and entertained at the drug store after office hours.

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Physicians were Drs. F. K. Strasser, Andrew B. Eadie, Frederick W. Parrish and H. O. Miller. Clyde R. Moody was Hemet's only lawyer, Emil Brudin was a building contractor and J. H. Botterell a cement contractor. The more progressive citizens were starting a movement for a sewer system. There were no paved streets and few cement sidewalks. William Wilson was in the nursery business.

H. H. Spaulding, just out of high school, entered the lumber business with his father-in-law. I. B. Gibbel had one hardware store and W. H. Mann and Burdette Raynor another. A. G. Hull was constable at Winchester. The Searl family was a large part of the population out Diamond valley way. W. B. Tripp had a meat market. J. R. Bell was in the transfer business, C. M. Dietterich had a stationery and book store and Dr. J. C. Tipton was a jeweler and optician. T. B. Foster was a local Prohibition party leader and "Dad" Ward was a loveable town character. C. E. McManigal was the Santa Fe agent. Jack Nelson was a Little Lake district rancher. He had come here in 1906 just a few weeks before the San Francisco fire. Back in Missouri Jack had been in the printing business. Charlie Randall operated Hemet's one

CHAMPION—E. P. Burnham, early days Hemet building contractor and pipeyard owner, wearing some of the medals he won in the 1880's as a high-wheel bicycle racer. In 1882 he was the United States champion and set a speed mark that still stands today.

barber shop and two bathtubs in the back room did a big business Saturday nights. The Starbuck brothers were in the barber business in San Jacinto.

Meeting place for the younger generation was the Chocolate shop operated by W. E. Miller. H. P. Shaw was in the bakery business. Bill Mincer was behind the second chair in Charlie Randall's barber shop and playing second mandolin in Randall's string ensemble. Harold Dryden, now an executive of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company at Los Angeles, was a member of that orchestra.

The Hemet Public library was on Florida avenue in the store-room now occupied by the Hemet Refrigeration company, but the present Carnegie library building was under construction. The Hemet Woman's club had conducted the campaign for the new library.

Hemet and San Jacinto were interested in a proposed electric railway line which would connect Hemet and Redlands. A right-of-way had been obtained and the San Diego, Riverside and Los Angeles Railway company had petitioned the state railroad commission for permission to issue $8,000,000 of bonds to finance the project.

C. D. Pool was manager of the San Jacinto Commercial company. The present Vosburg hotel was then known as the Farmer House. W. G. Vosburg was proprietor.

■

A tourist attraction and an important industry was the ostrich farm in the Fruitvale district, but millinery styles changed and soon there was no demand for ostrich plumes. Tommy Rawson, land king of Crown valley, was shipping honey by the carload from his apiary.

H. O. Hanna came from Kansas to become high school principal. Lee Moore was running a pool hall. The Hemet garage was selling five-passenger Overland touring cars for $1100. The garage also had the agency for Stoddard-Dayton automobiles.

S. C. Evans of Riverside and Louis B. Kirby and William Kettner of San Diego were candidates for congress. William Bruce was mayor. A Hemet Automobile club was being formed by Lee Sheppard, N. S. Charnock, I. G. Silver and others. The initiation fee was to be $2 and dues 25 cents a month. The Hemet Commercial club was the forerunner of the present chamber of commerce. Dr. J. C. Tipton was director of the Hemet military band. O. D. Ellis was the deputy horticultural commissioner here. Charles W. Howard was growing rose bushes on a small scale.

Dr. W. C. Rayen was a veterinarian. S. C. Miller had recently arrived from Indiana and purchased a fruit ranch west of town. W. H. Bryant was a building contractor. Taxpayers were protesting an annual expenditure of $75,000 for roads in Riverside county. E. T. Tanner was mayor of San Jacinto. J. Z. Smith, San Jacinto rancher, was enthusiastic about the merits of mule-footed hogs which he claimed were superior to all other breeds. Dr. Paul E. Simonds had an office in the Opera House building. Joe Scaramella was in charge of the gas plant. Elwin Rowell and Earl Riesland were men-about-town.

Mrs. Eda Prince ran a rooming house above the postoffice in the Bothin building. Budd Doble, driver of Nancy Hanks, Goldsmith Maid and other famous harness horses to world's records, was manager of the Hemet Stock farm. H. S. Dukes was city attorney and John Clayton was attorney for the Whittier companies. Fred Tapper was in the garage business and was chief of the fire department. The Hemet Canning company sold its entire season's output and carryover for $75,000. At the peak of the season, the cannery had a payroll of $1200 a week. Alfred Jacques ran a shoe store and Victor E. Peterson was manager of Broadwell's store. S. W. Graham opened the Hemet Electric company.

■

Gold Beauty Mining & Milling company was making extravagant claims about gold deposits in the San Jacinto mountains. The company was installing a cyanide plant and expected the gold ore to run as high as $1000 a ton. South of Hemet, magnesite and silica mines were in operation. Julius Mayer and Carsten Truelsen were in the nursery business. Abe Smith was putting up a new theater building for W. F. Rensler on Florida avenue. Guy S. Exon was forest ranger at Keen Camp. Ernest Hoskins was president of the Baraca class of the Baptist church. Guy Ankrum was chairman of the social committee. The Rev. W. M. Harkness was pastor of the Methodist church.

The Hemet Woman's club gave a play called "All the Comforts of Home." In the cast were Percy Davis, Guy Hudgins, Alfred Jacques, Adelaide Clarke, Esther Riesland, George Boalich, Ruth Brown, Ramona Street, Verne H. Wilson, Cyril Millington, Ione Dow, Forest Ogan, Billy Brooke, Myra Blackwell, Amos Churchill and J. Oliver Percival.

Nat Goodwin, matinee idol, owned a ranch at San Jacinto and was a frequent visitor there. Phil Shoemaker was in the gents' furnishings business. Riverside county had 13,781 voters. G. I. Webster was manager of the Hemet Orange Growers' association packing house. H. A. Walker shipped a carload of bottled water to Los Angeles from Soboba Hot Springs. E. T. Salmon was manager of the Bothin properties. Mr. and Mrs. Volney Brant and son, Ray, and daughter, Hazeldell had come from Michigan to locate in the valley. The daughter is now the wife of former Mayor Harry O. Searl.

Social event of the year was the marriage of Vervn Dillon and Deborah F. Bartlett. The bride was a niece of T. B. Foster. Monroe Salisbury, New York stage star, was building a summer home at Valle Vista. Richard P. Ward of Pasadena was building in the Little Lake district and C. F. Millington was erecting a home on Park Hill. F. D. Myers, retired capitalist, also was building in the Little Lake district. Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Kingsbury were prominent Park Hill residents. A. S. Bailey was advocating the planting of Tilton apricots in the valley.

■

Among election officials were Isaac Parks and William Bradford at Cahuilla; Elmer F. Baatz, J. Garbani, Tommy Rawson and A. J. Baatz at Diamond; J. C. Huntoon, J. M. Keen, Charles Sims, H. E. McEuen and Charles Chambers at Florida (Valle Vista); L. G. Butler, A. Blair, Dan Myers, A. Sproule and J. Kirby at Fruitvale; W. P. Rice, H. C. Magee, Quitman Reed and W. H. Densmore at Sage; A. W. Schwacofer, Homer A. Clark and A. E. Cox at Little Lake, and J. H. Wagner, Charley Ticknor, W. L. Brown, Lee R. Moore, C. M. Dietterich, J. R. Bell, W. C. Goodhue, W. H. Mann and David C. Burns in Hemet.

The first model T Ford car was sold in Hemet by Tapper & Rowell, proprietors of the City Garage. J. F. Schlange was proprietor of the Hemet Studio. Governor Horace Boies came from Iowa to spend the winter in Hemet. His granddaughter, Mrs. Adella C. Rickard, still lives here. Dr. J. E. Blackshaw was practicing at San Jacinto.

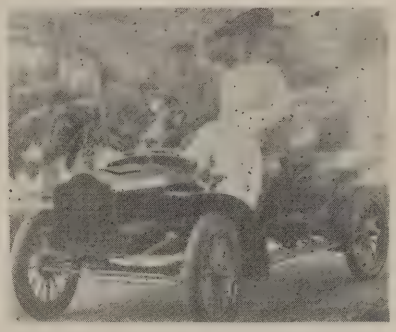
The Hemet Valley vote for president in the 1912 election was: Theodore Roosevelt, 475; Woodrow Wilson, 376; Eugene Debs, 214; Chafin, 168, and Taft, 9.

A. G. Silverthorn was driving an ice wagon. J. M. Keen, for whom Keen Camp resort was named, was in his eightieth year. Voters at a special election repealed an ordinance closing pool halls on Sunday. S. I. White was secretary and Dan Cotter captain of the Hemet baseball team.

Floyd E. Gilmore married Miss Edith Griffith. F. M. Calhoun & Son were in the jewelry business. Louis M. Jackson had arrived with his parents to live in the Valle Vista district. Miss Eva Oldaker came from San Bernardino to be Hemet librarian. Webber & Tibbott purchased the Hemet-San Jacinto Gas company.

REMEMBER THESE?—Correspondents at the Mexican border during the Villa campaign envied W. T. Durborough, in his big Stutz Bearcat at upper left. Overland "Country Club" model in which Hi Sibley of Nuevo made trip from Tokyo to Mt. Fuji, center above. At right is good example of Japanese body work on a Ford Model "T." This was known as a "Diplomat Limousine" because it had a high door to permit easy entrance for a man wearing a top hat.

GUESS WHAT?—This is the "Merry Oldsmobile" famous in song and story. It sold for $650.



SUNDAY DRIVERS—Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Stump, Hemet pioneers and parents of Mrs. H. H. Spaulding, owned Hemet's second automobile, shown above. It was a Reo, probably about a 1905 model.

FIRST PACKARD — This 1909 model Packard is believed to be the first car of that make ever to be driven in the Hemet Valley. The car was owned by H. E. Bothin, San Francisco capitalist who built the Bothin building (now the Farrar building) at the corner of Harvard and Florida.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

When the moonlight nights of September and October were the hayride season? Livery stables would rent wagons and supply the straw for cushioning. Hayride parties were to an earlier generation what the drive-in theaters are today.

When your milk came straight from the barn in open buckets; the woman of the house churned her own butter, and the family had thick cream on everything?

"When you had that old touring car and you got commption fits trying to get the ising glass side curtains buttoned down before the storm hit?

When folks bought their apples by the barrel and potatoes were found on the spout of all kerosene cans?

When gypsies came to town? They gave police and merchants a bad time and frightened the kids.

When editors studied the dictionary to find words ity enough to describe the editor of the opposition newspaper?

When you were told you could get rich in a short time by raising chinchillas in your back yard? And that was only a few years ago!

1906 FORD—Before the Model "T" was born Ford brought out this Model "N" in 1906. Note water pump under the crank.

PIONEER PHOTOGRAPHER—Si White, the man who took many of the pictures in this special edition, was Hemet's first commercial photographer. He is standing beside his 1906 Maxwell. In the car are Mrs. White and their son, Harry.

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Came from Iowa Nearly 70 Years Ago

Ankrum Gave Hemet Its First Electric Lights

It may be a bit hard to believe, but Guy Ankrum, the man who ran Hemet's first electric light plant, is still around — and he is still in the electrical business.

Guy Ankrum is an electrical contractor now, and he also owns a downtown electric shop.

Anything electrical is right up Guy's alley.

There was a time, back in 1905, when Guy was even more versatile than he is today. Not only could he cope with all of the electrical problems of that time, he could also play an important role if you wanted barley rolled, grain cleaned, or wheat milled into flour. And, if your residence happened to be in just the right locale, he could supply it with piped-in steam heat.

In those days Guy was chief engineer at the Hemet electric power plant and the Hemet flour mill. This does not mean that he was working in two different places. The same 150 h.p. steam engine which made the wheels go in the flour mill also ran the generator which supplied Hemet's first electric lights.

■

The flour mill, an impressive three story brick building on the northeast corner of Harvard and Latham, was built about 1890. The building went down in the 1918 earthquake. About 1895 Hemet's first electric power plant for the general use of the community was installed in spare space of the building, a sort of industrial stepchild to the flour mill, and the residents of Hemet from that point on started storing their coal oil lamps away in attics. Electricity had arrived as a public utility.

This was the scene into which Guy Ankrum, freshly graduated from the Hemet high school, made his professional debut in 1905.

Born in Iowa, Guy came to the Perris valley with his parents in 1893. Ten years later the George Ankrums and son, Guy, moved into Hemet.

During Guy's last year in school his closest friend, Frank Walley, had been serving as engineer for the combined flour mill and electric plant. Upon graduating, Walley's uncle, an official of the telephone company in Los Angeles, offered his nephew a position there. Walley suggested to the flour mill's manager, W. H. Panker, that his chum succeed him as engineer of the electric power plant.

No one had to twist young Guy's arm to persuade him to accept this position. He had been fascinated by the workings of the electric plant from the first time he had watched his friend Walley operate it. And, having spent many unofficial and unpaid evenings assisting Frank Walley run it, he needed no preliminary training period.

The electric lighting generated from the flour mill was not the first to be seen in Hemet. The Hotel Hemet, owned by W. F. Whittier, developer of the valley, had electric illumination for a couple of years. Thus, with Mr. Whittier being as electricity-conscious as he was, it was almost inevitable that he move the hotel's generating plant to the more dependable steam power of the flour mill when he purchased this mill from John McCool. Mr. Whittier was Hemet's greatest advocate of electrical installations. Even his ranch home was electrically illuminated, with a 32-volt battery hook-up supplying current.

■

Hemet's flour mill and power house combination did not at the beginning supply the city with electricity on a 24-hour basis. It could be that there was some thought that anyone who wished electric lights in the daytime was a mite "tetched in the head."

So the first current was to be had only from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. And, on dark winter mornings, the electricity was available from 4:30 to 7:30. There was no complaint about lack of "juice" in the daytime. After all, in those days there were no daytime electricity-using devices such as irons, percolators, curling irons, washing machines, refrigerators or waffle irons to connect with the current.

Guy Ankrum declares that the employees of the early Hemet flour mill and electric power plant were not encouraged to become specialists in one particular line of work. Thus, while Guy was primarily engineer in charge of the electric plant, he was not allowed to remain altogether ignorant of the intricacies involved in grinding flour or rolling barley. But getting out the electricity was his real professional love. He looked forward to the day when he might be in a position to completely ignore flour, except as it might appear in such finished forms as toast for breakfast.

Guy's only consolation about the peculiar Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde aspects of his combined production of flour-and-kilowatts at the mill was that the lack of specialization worked two ways. Not only did he occasionally get involved in the manufacture of flour, hired hands in the flour mill frequently found themselves out setting up poles or stringing wires along the streets for the city electric system.

"Don't get the idea that this early lighting system of ours stretched for miles and miles," Guy advises. "It only reached a few blocks from the power plant, mainly to the stores on Front street, Harvard street, a few on Florida avenue, and a few dozen houses, mainly to the east of the plant."

■

"And when I mention these houses," Guy went on, "I don't mean that every one in the area had electric lights. It was a hit and miss proposition. For a long time maybe only one or two houses in a block would have electricity while all the rest were still sticking to their coal oil lamps. We only had 109 meters connected up in all Hemet when I went to work at the plant in 1905. Putting in electricity then was pretty expensive and lots of people just couldn't afford it. Then, too, there were some of the old-timers who probably weren't sure it was here to stay."

The only Hemet business man who persistently held out against the innovation of electric lights was a Chinese laundryman.

"I never could remember his name even 50 years ago and I'm not going to try now," Guy declares. "He had a little place about a block east of our power plant, and, being so close, he could have been among the first to get lights. He could have used them, too, because he did a lot of night work in his laundry. But he wouldn't go for

PIONEER—Guy Ankrum, electrical contractor, using one of the crank-type wall telephones that were among the first instruments provided in Hemet. The crank, used to call the operator, is on the right side of the box and does not show in picture. Mr. Ankrum has been a Hemet telephone subscriber continuously since 1905. (Hemet News photo)

them at all. Our conversations on the subject never provided me with a clear understanding of his objections, because his English was confused, and I didn't speak Chinese. But after he'd yelled and waved his arms a lot, I always caught on that what he had in mind was no, he didn't want any electric lights."

Guy Ankrum thinks we should know that the combination flour mill and power plant turned out a by-product that was very comforting on cold winter nights.

"We were in the steam-heating business, too," Guy tells us. "This was natural enough, with that double boiler steam engine going 24 hours a day. First we piped steam into the old opera house building on Harvard street, where The Hemet News was located for many years. It was a three story building then, and our plant heated the stores on the ground floor, the opera house on the second floor, and the Odd Fellows hall on the third.

●

The electrification of early Hemet did not straightway bring about brilliant Gay-White-Way effects to Harvard street, Florida avenue or Front street, according to Guy Ankrum.

"Even though most of the stores were electrically lighted back in 1905, there weren't any electric signs on the outside," he declared. "It would have been too expensive. Electric current cost about twice what it does now, and besides, the only light globes we had then were the little 25 or 32 watt carbon filiment ones, the kind that had the little sharp glass tips, and the yellowish light they gave wasn't anywhere near as bright as that you can get now with the same amount of electricity."

Guy does not wish us to have the impression that the streets of yesteryear's downtown Hemet were dark and foreboding. There were six or eight of those bright but sputtering carbon stick lamps suspended from high posts on the main business blocks. "They made the streets around the heart of town almost as light as day, as long as the kids didn't put them out of commission with sling shots or BB guns," Hemet's pioneer electrician and electrical contractor declares.

Hemet's "good old days" were not quite so good when it came time to pay your light bill, Guy Ankrum says. "We had to get 15 cents per kilowatt for our juice back then, compared with about seven cents today," he reports. "And with family incomes what they were, that could really hurt."

As Guy recalls it, Hemet saw its first electric fan in action along about 1908 or 1909. "I can't for the life of me remember who had it," he declares, "and I never actually saw it in action. But I do remember that a lot of the womenfolk couldn't seem to talk about anything else for quite awhile. Then, two or three years later, there was the same kind of commotion when somebody got an electric iron. Then, a little later yet, electric percolators appeared, and Hemet was really on its way to being electrified.

When Guy Ankrum started out on his career in electricity in Hemet nearly half a century ago, the town's Home Telephone company was a major customer of the local electric power plant. The telephone service was comparable to that of the electric light company in that it was not to be commanded 24 hours a day. Telephones could be used from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on week days and from 8 a.m. until noon on Sundays.

●

The unusual combination of a flour mill with a city's electricity generating plant came to an end in 1914, when Hemet's electric lines were joined with the Southern Sierras company system which was extending so widely throughout Southern California. It is now the California Electric Power company, with headquarters in Rialto.

Guy Ankrum stayed on with the Southern Sierras company until 1917, at which time he resigned and started out on his own career as an electrical contractor, the field in which he is so active and eminent today.

Hemet's veteran electrical contractor admits that he was nostagically unhappy about the passing of the old flour mill-electric plant, not because he was opposed to progress, but because of the somewhat primitive and unique charm presented by the largely improvised establishment.

"I suppose if I was running a place like that today its lack of the latest in equipment might drive me almost crazy," Guy Ankrum says. "Or, maybe not. Maybe it would still be as interesting and as much of a challenge as it was when I was a young fellow. But anyway, there's one thing I'm sure of. That old plant had an awful lot of character to it. Don't ask me exactly what kind of character it was, but take my word for it, it had plenty."

ABOUT HEMET'S NAME

How did the name Hemet originate?

The explanation that has come to be accepted in the office of The Hemet News was given by the late William Bradford, who came here toward the end of the last century to become the first manager of the old Hotel Hemet and later was Hemet's second postmaster. Mr. Bradford recalled that in the early days two brothers named Hemmet (spelled with two m's) lived in the mountains in the vicinity of the lake.

From the office of the Lake Hemet Water company comes a statement that on several old maps and deeds in their files the name "Hemica" appears as identifying that part of the mountain country in the vicinity of what is now Lake Hemet. It is stated that this is an Indian word meaning "surrounded by trees."

Members of the Costo family state that in the Indian legend of Tahquitz, known to the Indians for many generations the name of the beautiful maiden pursued by the angry chief is "Hemetica."

The most common explanation seems to be that Hemet is an Indian word meaning "box" and as such was appropriately applied to the mountain valley in which the lake is situated.

The late Charles H. Thomas was the first white settler in the San Jacinto mountains and in a trade with the Indians he acquired ownership of the land surrounding the lake, including what is now the Garner ranch. Mrs. Victoria Brooke of Hemet, his daughter, was born there, and it is her belief that the valley was known to the Indians as Hemet before her father's time.

Seeking information on the origin of the name Hemet, Mrs. William R. Harriman recently made inquiry of her brother-in-law, Jasper Moon, a British authority on world history and geography. Following is the text of the letter she received from him:

"There is no place called Hemet in the Gazeteer's of the British Isles, but there is a Hemmet north of Varde on the west of Denmark, pretty much where you would expect to find a Hem prefix, or suffix.

"It is the equivalent of Ham, which in Anglo Saxon signified that which is hemmed in, an enclosure with the added idea of the place being sanctified by the family bond — home.

"It is common wherever the Anglo Saxons settled — England, north of France and their homeland, Frizia. Thus, Birmingham, the home of the Birmings—ing being the family of the patronymic, or clan name Birma, or whatever it was. In the Anglo Saxon Chronicle, Ida was Eopping — the son of Eoppa.

"In Nance, Bicardy, there are many hems — Pont du hem, the bridge of the village Linghem, Dohem and so on, and there is le Hamel south of Aire and Hamet Billet.

"There is little doubt that Hemet means the little Ham or home and I have no doubt that whoever named your township had in mind the village from whence he came, probably the Hemmet in Denmark.

"I cannot find any other hamlet spelled with only one 'm' and I think the postoffice, if it couldn't find the addresses in California, might find it in Denmark."

Florida's (Valle Vista's) Second Postmaster Still There

Former Jennie Huntoon Came Here Before Railroad

First high school in Hemet was "way out in the country," and had a student body of 95 to 96 boys and girls. There were two teachers, one man and one woman.

These and other remembrances of the period of the early 1900's belong to Mrs. Jennie H. Stearns of Valle Vista.

The one girl in a graduating class of seven, Mrs. Stearns and her younger sister would ride a horse or drive a pony cart down Florida avenue for five miles in order to attend the school which was in the middle of open fields.

At that time, the center of population was the present Valle Vista community and there was little of Hemet as we know it today. Valle Vista grew as the result of promotion of the area as a future railroad center.

•

Coming from Illinois, Mrs. Stearns, then 5-year-old Jennie Huntoon, arrived at the railroad terminus in Perris in 1887. J. C. Huntoon and his wife had five children, Frank, Joe, Cecil, Jennie and Ida.

The trip out on the train had been hot and crowded, Mrs. Stearns recalls. "There were so many people moving out that the long train was divided into two sections, and one of the boys was temporarily separated from us."

As youngsters, the Huntoon children first attended a primary school held in a shack, not far from Replogles Valle Vista store today. Later, school was held in the second story of a brick building, above the grocery and postoffice.

Florida school was finally built near the location of the present library, and housed all eight grades and their one teacher in one room.

At the first Hemet high school, students had a choice only of taking the English or the Latin course schedule. "There was nothing like the selection of classes that we have today," Mrs. Stearns said.

A two-story building with a bell steeple the high school contained one large room, and two smaller classrooms on the first floor. There was an auditorium upstairs.

Located at the corner of what is now known as Buena Vista street and Acacia avenue, the wood frame structure served the area until it was torn down in 1911 to be replaced by the present school.

The member of the pioneer family recalls her school days as being very "stern." Visits of the county school superintendent, Edward Hyatt, filled the classes with dread, because he required recitations from each individual.

"When we heard him ride up in his horse and buggy, we always forgot whatever we might have known once, no matter how good we were," she said.

•

While the younger children attended school, Frank and Joe, the older boys, helped their father grub off the sagebrush and plant apricot trees. Early settlers were also responsible for the planting of the present tall shade trees which line the streets of the area. In addition to 10 acres of fruit trees, Huntoon leased 400 acres of Wilson's property for grain.

Working with gang plows and six horses, the father of the family was always in the fields before 7 o'clock in the morning. His day was not ended until long after the sun was down, the horses fed and combed, and the one cow milked.

Mrs. Huntoon became the second postmaster and would ride to San Jacinto daily to pick up the bag of mail for the area. There was no home delivery in those days, and everyone came to the grocery store, and later to the Huntoon home for their letters.

In addition to working with their father, the boys helped in the construction work of the old Florida hotel, which was later renamed the Magnolias and became a very popular resort center.

Early settlers found life in the valley full of rigors, but none quite so upsetting as the earthquake of 1899. The Huntoon family and many other residents lost their homes in that earthquake as a result of the common use of two-story construction. The children particularly regretted loss of the turkey dinner which was on the table in preparation for the family feast. After sweeping up the broken china and turkey dinner, the family moved into the home of an aunt, at the present residence on Fifth street, Valle Vista.

"The railroad never came to Valle Vista," Mrs. Stearns remarked.

•

This switch in plans caused many of the early settlers to move their homes from the area, but others remained. Valle Vista settled down to a quiet rural life for many years, while Hemet grew by leaps and bounds.

A second boom, although somewhat quieter, is now in progress, and Mrs. Stearns notes that many new homes have been built in the area in the past three or four years.

She said that there have been a few changes in the Valle Vista settlement, but that for the most part life has remained the same as during the quiet period.

Numbering of her home by the gas company last year caused her to write her brother-in-law that "now I have seen everything."

"You see," she explains, "we always refer to locations as being near so-and-so, or next to such-and-such. Everybody knows everybody."

Her home on Fifth street now has a number – 25830 to be exact.

DO YOU REMEMBER?—When the late Amos Churchill owned the Hemet Transfer company back in 1914, horse-drawn equipment was still in use. Left to right, above, are Mr. Churchill (standing by his yellow sports car of that day), "Red" Elliott and Jay Crawford, teamsters.

1910 CLASS PLAY—Pictured above is the cast of the Hemet high school's 1910 senior class play. Left to right are Alessandra Brown, Clyde Grover, Elwin Rowell, Bertha Jones, Loyd Wright, Monte Jean Rather, Bill Brooke, Julia Kingsbury, Phil Shoemaker, Rupert Wedemeyer, Chester McIntosh and Sam Wagner. (Photo from Grace Fosdick collection)

Do You Remember:

When Happy Hooligan was your favorite comic character?

Do You Remember:

When mother used six flat-irons in rotation to do the family ironing?

Ten State Senators

Riverside county did not have a state senator until the election of Thomas J. Jones in 1896. State senators who have followed him and the years they first were elected have been: A. A. Caldwell, 1900; John N. Anderson, 1904; Miguel Estudillo, 1908; S. C. Evans, 1916; Walter Eden, 1920; Chester M. Kline, 1924; L. J. Difani, 1932; John Phillips, 1936, and Nelson S. Dilworth, 1940.

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THEN AND NOW—At left, above, are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Replogle in their Valle Vista store shortly after they purchased it from G. C. Disney 33 years ago. Note the country store atmosphere and the family dog on the floor in the foreground. At right are the Replogles as they look today following their retirement from business. They are looking forward to the honeymoon trip they were too busy to take about 40 years ago. (Hemet News photo at right)

REPLOGLES HAD STORE 33 YEARS

Looking forward to comfortable retirement, including travel and fishing, are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Replogle, who recently sold the Valle Vista store which they had owned since 1927. The widely known pioneer couple will soon take off on a honeymoon trip that has been delayed over 40 years.

It has been said that no people in the valley have a longer list of acquaintances than Elmer and Ruby Replogle, who have held down the northwest corner of East Florida avenue and Fairview street for so long a time.

For many years the Replogles kept their Valle Vista store open 24 hours a day — in fact it was open around the clock until the beginning of World War II when gasoline rationing and the help shortages made it impractical to keep the doors open all the time.

Mr. Replogle said that for 14 years the doors were never closed and there were no keys for them.

The store has more than doubled in size — from 16 by 26 feet to 75 by 140 feet — since the Replogles acquired it, and the volume of business has grown proportionately.

Around the opening of the deer hunting and fishing seasons in pre-war days, the store often did as much business at night as it did in the daytime because of the many sportsmen going to and from the San Jacinto mountains.

During their years in Valle Vista the Replogles have been in the forefront of most community activities. They have been friends of people in need. They have been at the bedsides of numerous Valle Vista people when they passed away, and Mrs. Replogle has even served as a midwife when doctors or nurses didn't arrive in time.

About 1935 the store was held up by a bandit flourishing a gun. It was night and Harold McKibbon, now of San Jacinto, was the clerk on duty. When the bandit demanded the money from the cash register Mr. McKibbon succeeded in dropping the larger bills to the floor unnoticed and gave to the gunman only the smaller bills which amounted to a total of about $28. The bandit was later captured at Buena Park and turned out to be an ex-convict.

"It's been a great life, running this country store and knowing so intimately so many people in this rural community which was one of the three earliest settlements in what is now the sprawling Hemet-San Jacinto Valley," said Mrs. Replogle this week.

The present Valle Vista community was once known as Florida. Old San Jacinto, Winchester and Florida were the first three settlements, or trading posts, in the valley.

Before acquiring the Valle Vista store, Mr. Replogle operated a Little Lake district orange grove of his own and contracted to take care of other groves and orchards.

The marriage of Elmer Replogle to Ruby Haslam in 1916 brought together two of the valley's best known pioneer families.

Elmer George Replogle came here 53 years ago from Michigan. His parents, George and Amy Replogle, Sr., had arrived two years earlier and settled in the Little Lake district. The older Replogles had three sons and one daughter. One of the sons and the daughter are deceased. Elmer's brother, Grant, lives at Valle Vista not far from the store. He operates a machine shop.

Elmer Replogle had completed his education in Michigan before arriving here. His wife, Ruby, graduated from Hemet high school.

The Elmer Replogles have three children, Welton G. and Mrs. Adele McGill, both of Valle Vista, and Mrs. Catherine Davidson of Fullerton. Welton and Mrs. McGill have been associated with their parents in the store.

The parents of Mrs. Ruby Haslam Replogle were Mr. and Mrs. William J. Haslam. They came to the Winchester district, then known as Pleasant Valley, in 1885 from LaMar, Missouri.

The elder Haslams brought with them four sons and one daughter. Nine other children were born to them in the years following their arrival here.

The five children who came to California with their parents were Byron, James, John, Guy and Myrtle. Myrtle married Charles Isle, a pioneer Hemet blacksmith.

The nine children born to the elder Haslams at Winchester were Mabel, (Mrs. William Buster of Garden Grove); Maude, (Mrs. Young, deceased); Roy, deceased; Anna, (Mrs. Carl Krauchi, Santa Ana); Hubert, deceased; Percy, deceased; Beulah, (Mrs. Roland Frank of Garden Grove); Ruth, (Mrs. Henry Rennie of Santa Barbara) and Ruby, (Mrs. Replogle of Valle Vista).

The pioneer Haslam family now include 46 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Among items of historical interest in the Elmer Replogle home at Valle Vista is a deed to a lot in the San Jacinto cemetery signed by James Schultz, secretary of the first cemetery board. Also in the Replogles' possession is a certificate representing stock in the now defunct Pleasant Valley Irrigation district which covered thousands of acres around what is now Winchester. There was no Hemet in those days.

The elder Haslams homesteaded 160 acres just two miles from the present Winchester postoffice.

The Pleasant Valley Irrigation district obtained its water from the San Jacinto river at a point just east of what is now Valle Vista and carried it across the valley to Winchester in a large open ditch.

But the irrigation district lost its San Jacinto mountain water when W. F. Whittier came to the valley and built the Hemet dam which forms Lake Hemet in the mountains. The dam stored the water that in the past was stream flow and was picked up by the early days irrigation district.

After losing the San Jacinto river water, the Pleasant Valley Irrigation district embarked on an ambitious plan to bring water to Winchester from Big Bear lake by way of Moreno.

What was probably the most spectacular land boom in the valley's history occurred when it appeared that the irrigation district would have an ample supply of Big Bear water. Actually, the water never got beyond Moreno.

Mr. and Mrs. Replogle still own six acres of the original Haslam home place at Winchester and have plans to some day develop it for at least a part-time residence.

They have recently moved their Valle Vista house to a new site on North Fairview avenue and, after they retire, will be at home there when not traveling or fishing. Mr. Replogle expects to put a boat on the Colorado river.

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He Remembers Andy Stice and Hemet's Only Saloon

EARL BALLOU, EARLY DAYS BUILDER

Contrary to a frequently used phrase, towns do not just "grow".

They are largely built, actually and literally, by persons such as Hemet's Earl Ballou.

Earl Ballou has been doing a dedicated job of building the Hemet he so much believes in for 50 years.

Starting as a carpenter, he went on to become a building contractor, one who has built more homes in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley than he can remember.

"I lost track a few years back, when the count got somewhere around 200," Earl declares.

As a contractor, the first house Ballou built was the staunch and comfortable ranch home on South Columbia street in which the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Patscheck resided until recently. Earl originally built the house, back in 1918, for the Huston family.

Earl Ballou has been a resident of Hemet since 1894, the year his mother and father arrived from Nebraska. Mrs. Ballou's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Griffith, arrived the same year.

Earl's father, Lucius A. Ballou, was a carpenter and immediately started playing his pioneer part in the building of Hemet. Ed Griffith was an important contributor to the building of Hemet, too. He owned and drove the eight-horse team which, some 60 years ago, was responsible for such important achievements as the grading of Hemet's newly laid out streets, the hauling of building materials over the rugged mountain road for the building of the Strawberry valley sanitarium in the locale now known as Idyllwild. Ed and his team also kept the Banning area supplied with the flour turned out by Hemet's flour mill of 60 years ago.

Earl Ballou is not one who lives always in the past, or thinks that the "good old days" of Hemet were the only good ones. They were mighty fine, he agrees, but he insists today's days are exceptionally good ones, too. And those of tomorrow and years to come, he predicts, will be even better.

Still, Earl doesn't mind letting his memory go back to the highly interesting times of early Hemet.

Looking at the many abundantly stocked Hemet stores we now have, his thoughts go back to Weber's store.

■

"When I was a youngster I couldn't conceive of a store anywhere being more magnificent than Weber's," Earl remembers. "I know now that it was a small, crowded place, but when I was little it looked as though it contained everything that anyone could possibly want, and maybe, in a way, it did. At Weber's you could get food, clothing, farm implements, carpenter's tools, hunting equipment, books, cooking utensils, harness, and I don't know what all. I doubt that we have any stores in town now that offer much more variety."

Earl remembers a vacant square block in what is now the center of town. It was nearly surrounded by a board fence and a board sidewalk.

This locale remains colorfully fresh in Earl Ballou's mind because the first circus he ever saw had its glamorous canvas stretched there.

This block did not lie idle until a circus came along to occupy it. It was used for many other festive occasions, too. Almost any community event, from celebration of the Fourth of July to getting together for a church picnic, was conducted on this vacant block.

Earl remembers festivities such as these latter kind well enough, but his mind still clings to the thought which became so firmly implanted there when he was a youngster; that this fenced block was first and most importantly of all a place in which to present circuses.

■

Earl has discovered that many youngsters of today have picked up the idea, probably from radio and TV, that the entire west of yesteryear was a very wild place, and that inasmuch as Hemet is a western town, it must have been a highly riotous place during its pioneer days.

The veteran contractor hates to disappoint the kids, but, in the interests of accurate reporting, he insists upon advising them that wildness in the traditional or fictional western pattern became apparent in Hemet only now and then, on a rather hit-and-miss basis.

"We never had much of a supply of badmen and gunstoters of our own here in Hemet," Earl states. "Most of those we got were the few who now and then strayed over from San Jacinto's 'Old Town'. That was a real lively place."

During all his years in Hemet, Earl says, he witnessed only one shooting which even slightly approached the time-honored western formula, and it did not quite make this goal, because not even one fatality resulted. In fact, nobody was hit.

"Along back about 1901 or thereabouts we had a combined constable and city marshal, a fellow whose name I can't at the moment recall," Earl tells. "One day there was considerable need for him to act as a constable, for a couple of drunken cowboys had come to town and were shooting up the place in general, banging away at signs and windows and things like that."

"Our constable looked the situation over and then did the sensible thing of ignoring it," Earl continues.

EARL BALLOU

"None of us blamed him. When he was made contable he had only been provided with a little .22 pistol, and these cowboys were operating with big .45's and could have blasted him down in no time at all. So our constable and all the rest of us just stayed out of range until the cowboys went away."

■

Along about this same time, Earl recalls, there occurred another shooting incident in which a Hemet resident figured.

Raymond Cree, Hemet school teacher, had occasion to ride over to San Jacinto on his horse. As he went past a tavern in Old Town, several bourbon-inspired cowboys started shooting at him.

Unhappy about this development, Cree decided to simultaneously barricade himself and get away from there. Clinging to the saddle-horn and crouching low on the side of the horse farthest away from the gun-slingers, he encouraged his mount to get going. The horse, also in somewhat of a tizzy about the gunfire, obliged.

At this bullet-dodging moment Schoolmaster Cree was of the opinion that the probably uneducated cowboys were violently opposed to the existence of all school teachers, and that they intended to shoot him as dead as possible and then drag him off to some Boot Hill grave, in fine old Tombstone, Dodge City, Elsworth, or Leadville fashion.

Later, out of gun range, Cree revised his opinion to the extent of figuring that the cowboys merely were feeling an urge for that form of self expression which leads to the shooting of pistols, not with the idea of hitting anything in particular, but just to be making a lot of noise.

It must have been that way. Cree and his horse were only about 30 feet away from the pistol-packing cowwranglers. They could not have failed to hit man or beast if they had really been trying. Raymond Cree lived to later become county superintendent of schools.

And thus ends the history of wild west gun-play in which Hemet and its residents figured, as far as Earl Ballou recalls.

■

For the sake of factual reporting, Earl declares that early Hemet did have a saloon, despite contention of some oldtimers that the early city was unsullied by even one grogshop.

Earl reports that Andy Stice briefly operated a saloon on North Harvard street, where the Hemet dry cleaning shop is now. That was back around 1898, and the tavern did not long survive. Earl thinks that after Stice's bar closed here it reopened in a thirstier Old Town locale.

Comparing the Hemet of today with that of 60 years ago, Earl admits that there is one thing it used to have, and now doesn't, which he greatly misses; the railroad trains which were then so handily available to take passengers to and from San Jacinto, San Bernardino, or any spot in between.

"I know the buses are more efficient, but riding those trains was certainly a lot of fun," Earl declares.

"There was one train in the morning and another in the afternoon," he went on. "And, for an important out of town event you could easily make arrangements for the running of a special.

"I'll never forget the trip on the special that went to San Bernardino for the Ringling Brothers' circus, back in 1900 or thereabouts.

"Then, some time later, there was another special to San Bernardino, this time for Buffalo Bill's circus and wild west show. On days like that the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley was almost emptied of its population, with about the only ones staying behind being those so aged or infirm that they couldn't travel."

Earl Ballou paused and chuckled. "I guess by this time everyone will be getting the idea that I was pretty fond of circuses when I was a kid," he said. "Well, I was, and I still am."

■

However, circuses show up only now and then and one cannot count upon them for everyday or even every-week amusement. Therefore early Hemet regularly turned to the opera house for its entertainment.

The opera house was on the second floor of the old Hemet News building. On the third floor was the Odd Fellows hall.

Back in those days the building in which The Hemet News was quartered until five years ago was so impressive that it was regularly thought of as an edifice, rather than as just a plain building, and no wonder. After all, it did have three stories.

On the ground floor there were then some stores — including a furniture store owned by Charlie Tichnor.

While Earl Ballou does not recall that the second floor opera house ever presented a troupe from the Metropolitan opera or anything of comparable musical or theatrical magnitude, he nevertheless declines to belittle any of the many kinds of entertainment which it regularly offered.

"It was entertainment that really entertained, and you can't beat that no matter where you are," Earl declares. "Lots of time we did have very good theatrical troupes which came here for a one or two night stand after playing a longer run in the big opera house in San Bernardino. Then, we'd stage plays and musical productions of our own, with the schools and churches generally producing these. Or we'd have dances or socials. Our opera house was really what you would call a 'civic auditorium' today."

■

Those who are comparatively new to the valley and who may have been wondering why The Hemet News building of today is only one story tall, with no second floor opera house, or third floor Odd Fellows hall, must necessarily be supplied with the following information: In 1918 there was an earthquake. As far as the three story edifice was concerned, this was two-thirds of a terrific disaster. Only the ground floor survived to appreciable degree.

By this time The Hemet News had been in the opera house building nearly four years, so it was the newspaper plant which found its floor plan confused by having an opera house and an Odd Fellows hall mixed in with its linotype machines. Repairs and remodeling were in order.

Mention of this repair and remodeling instantly leads us back to Earl Ballou. Earl and his father took on the task of gathering up the remnants of the opera house and Odd Fellows hall and rebuilding the lower floor for The Hemet News.

The year Earl Ballou participated in the phoenix-like raising of The Hemet News from the wreckage which the temblors had inflicted upon it was also the year in which he stepped out to seek a career of his own as a general contractor, and Earl believes his participation in the not small task of rebuilding the newspaper's offioe and shop offered much inspiration for this venture into the contracting field.

■

Ballou doesn't believe that even the lovely Hemet of today represents complete fulfillment of the community possibilities dreamed of by the vanguard Hemetites who pioneered the town 50, 60, and more, years ago.

"There are greater possibilities offered by Hemet and the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley than are realized even now," Earl declares. "And while I do enjoy looking back on the Hemet of years past and talking about it, I'm fonder yet of thinking of its future. It's going to be much greater than most folks have any idea of."

So go the thoughts of the second generation of one of Hemet's real builders. And there is a third generation Ballou who is inspired by the same dedicated belief which has so long distinguished Earl. Earl Ballou's son, Kenneth, is now superintendent of all construction undertaken by his father, and will someday personally be, as were his father and grandfather before him, Builder Ballou, of and for Hemet.

EARLY WHITTIER AIDE

One of the associates of W. F. Whittier in the development of the Hemet Valley 70 years ago was Phillip N. Myers who died in 1944.

Mr. Myers came to Hemet in 1896 as secretary to Mr. Whittier and later was made general manager of all the Whittier enterprises here, including the Lake Hemet Water company, the Hemet Town Water company, the Hemet Land company and the Bank of Hemet.

He remained with the Whittier companies until 1906 when he began the practice of law in Hemet and soon moved to Los Angeles, where he was an attorney until 1917 when he moved to Calipatria to become associated with the Imperial Valley Farm Lands association, subdividers of 10,000 acres in the northern part of the Imperial valley.

1910 GARAGE—Interior view of Hemet's first automotive repair shop. It was owned by Ira G. Silver, who also had a horseless carriage agency. Robert Q. Shepard's machine shop now occupies the building.

Weston Park .... The Story of Its Trees

Hemet people should remember to make a tour of Weston park one of these days to determine how tall a redwood tree planted in 1930 by the Hemet Woman's club has grown. The redwood was planted with considerable ceremony and a sister tree was planted in front of the woman's club building.

The Hemet News has been reminded of this tree-planting ceremony by Mrs. S. C. Miller, who recalls that as part of the program Miss Edith Poore sang Joyce Kilmer's "Trees" and Mrs. Charles W. Howard recited a poem which, by coincidence was also entitled "Trees."

One of the speakers was the late John E. King, who referred to the fact that most of the people present especially those from the midwest, came from a tribe of tree destroyers rather than tree planters, as the farm lands of the Mississippi valley had once been virgin forests. He congratulated the people of Hemet on having such a beautiful park and pointed out that it was the result of a gift to the city from Dr. John B. Weston, for whom it was named.

Dr. Weston at that time was a member of the city park board and was largely responsible for planning the development for park purposes of the square block of land which he gave to the city with the understanding it would be maintained forever as a park.

■

Going back into the files of The Hemet News, we find that Dr. Weston on that occasion said:

"I am very happy on behalf of the park commission of which Jack Hopkins is the president, to accept this tree from your club. We promise you we will take care of it and cherish it.

"How much better this is than a granite shaft! Each year this tree will increase in grandeur and beauty, growing stalwart and strong, typical of the statesmen in whose honor it is planted. These trees, really giant cypresses, once growing all over the world, are now found nowhere but in California, its last stand, and it is fitting that we should aid in keeping them alive in our own park.

"This is not the only tree planted here with sentiment. A gold star mother gave some trees in memory of her son who perished in the great war. A sister has planted a tree for one she loved. The children of the schools have planted three trees which they watch with interest and in which they have pride. The trees here are not a motley group put in simply to fill up space, but in accordance with a plan carefully thought out.

"We have called on many countries for their contribution to its adornment for few of the trees here are native, Australia has given us our eucalypti, Palestine our acacias, Africa our palms, Peru our peppers, China our fern trees. To tie our mountains and valley together, San Jacinto has given us mountain cedars and the desert to show its friendliness its palo verde. Truly all the world is akin, if it sends its contribution to beautify our park

"This park is in the kindergarten stage, just as our children are at a certain stage of growth. Be patient with it, and you will see it develop as the years pass on. You will see those tan-colored branches of the eucalyptus stretch out in strange shapes, giving between them and their leafy tops glimpses of blue sky. The palo verde will stand for weeks a marvel of gorgeous yellow. The Arizona cypress which now looks simply like a pyramid of grey green, will astonish you by its height and spread. That circle of palms with the fern trees between will be one of the most unique sights in any park in this country.

"We can vision in after years children playing here, lovers wandering and seeking secluded spots and old people sitting on benches in the shade of the trees and resting there, feeling it is good to be alive even if they no longer have part in the activities of the world about. Into this place we gladly accept your tree, seeing in our mind's eye the towering top and the stately finger pointing into the sky and dominating all the other trees here."

■

It is well that the people of Hemet should be reminded from time to time of the origin of this magnificent park that is situated in the very heart of the city.

Especially on warm summer days and nights do people and their visitors from far and near find it an ideal place for rest and recreation.

The late Dr. Weston was for many years known affectionately as Hemet's "first citizen." The park that bears his name is his memorial.

Hemet's 'First Citizen' Many Years

DR. WESTON GAVE PARK TO CITY

The man who for a longer period than any other was respectfully known as "Hemet's first citizen" was Dr. John B. Weston, who passed away in 1945 at the age of 91 after more than a quarter century's leadership in community's affairs.

He is buried in the San Jacinto Valley cemetery, the development and beautification of which was one of the civic projects in which he was most interested. He was a member of the San Jacinto Valley Cemetery district board of trustees and it was largely due to his vision that the cemetery has been made a final resting place of quiet beauty comparable to the finest in Southern California.

■

Forty years ago Dr. Weston gave to Hemet an entire city block in the center of town for park purposes, and as a member of the city park commission he took a personal interest in its development. He selected with extreme care the trees that were planted there and was also responsible for tree-planting along the streets of the residential sections of the city. In recognition of his philanthropy and interest in beautifying the community, the city council named the park in his honor. When Dr. Weston retired as an active member of the city park commission the council made him an honorary park commissioner for life.

He served as Hemet's mayor during the period of the first World war and for several years thereafter. He was a past president of the Hemet Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Riverside County Chamber of Commerce. He was a charter member and the fourth president of the Hemet Kiwanis club. He had served on scores of committees representing many community organizations.

Dr. Weston came to Hemet from Duluth, Minnesota, in 1913 to retire from the practice of medicine. In Duluth he had been a leading physician for 25 years and had served as city health officer. He never practiced medicine in Hemet. Before going to Duluth he was a physician in Pennsylvania for ten years.

■

He was a native of Peoria, Illinois, born December 31, 1853. He graduated from Lewisburg College (now Bucknel University) in 1875 and from the University of Pennsylvania in 1878. His degrees were M.D. and Sc.D. At the time of his death he was a trustee of John B. Stetson University in Florida.

He was married March 27, 1888, to Miss Anne Van Derlip, a promising young artist who later won a reputation as a designer of stained glass church windows.

Two members of the Weston family remain in Hemet. Miss Grace Weston, who, like her father, has always been active in community affairs, especially the Red Cross and American Legion auxiliary and Mrs. Betty Weston Ogden. Dr. Weston's only son, Henry G. Weston, now lives at Coronado but was a prominent business man when he lived here. He was president of the chamber of commerce and held numerous other civic positions.

Do You Remember:

When Irene Truelsen and Harold Dryden were the stars in the Hemet high school production "Everywoman" at the old opera house about 1913? Irene married a wealthy Beverly Hills realtor and Harold is now executive head of the directory department of Pacific Telegraph and Telephone company in Los Angeles.

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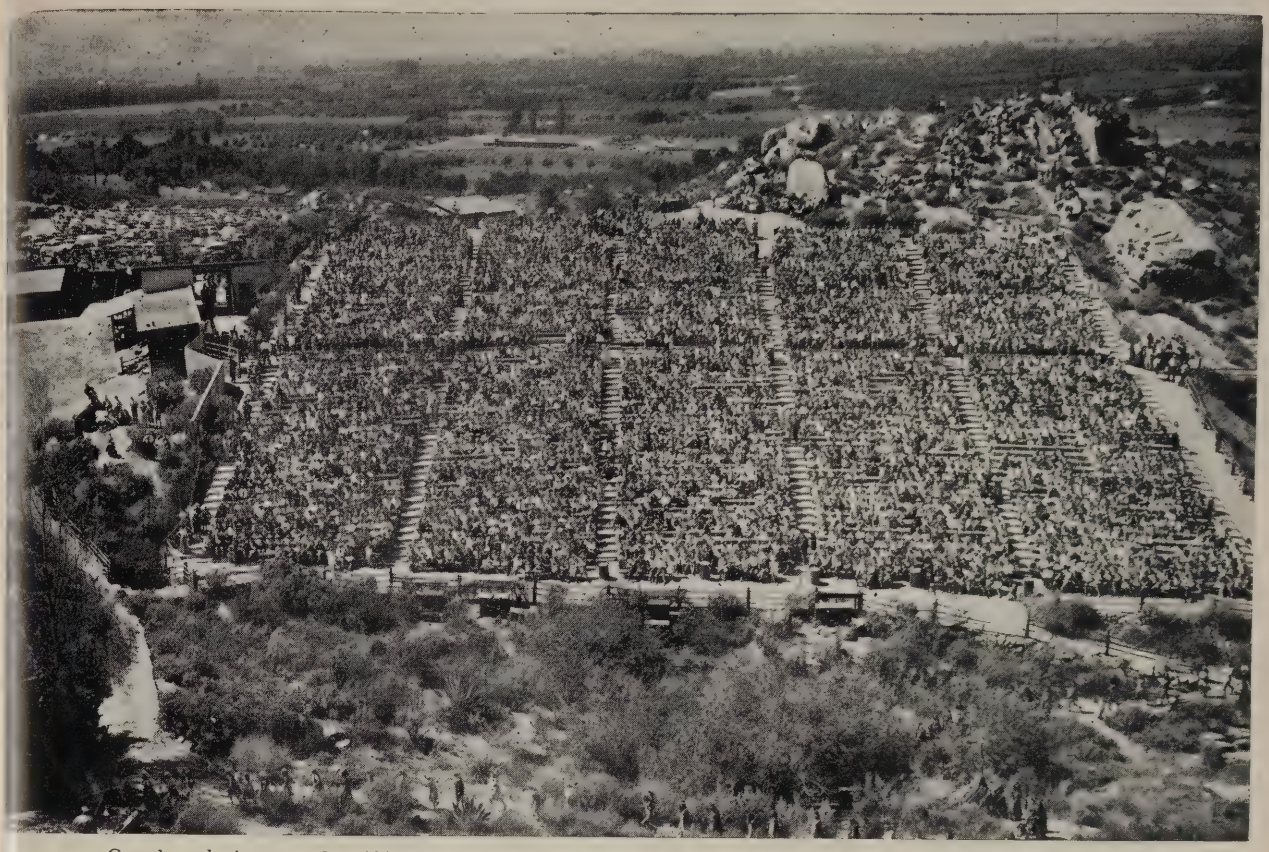

Crowd numbering more than 6000 in Ramona Bowl, second largest single audience in history of the Ramona Outdoor Play.

Valley's Annual Ramona Play

More than 30,000 people come to the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley each spring time to absorb again the romantic and colorful Ramona story as it is reenacted in song and pageantry and the spoken word in six Saturday and Sunday afternoon performances.

It was a sage of long ago who declared that if a man can build a better mousetrap than his neighbor, the world will beat a pathway to his door, and nearly 40 years ago the people of Riverside county's beautiful Hemet-San Jacinto Valley acted on this advice in a big way. Over a million people have beaten a pathway here to witness the annual Ramona Outdoor Play, presented by a cast of more than 300 actors in a magnificent amphitheater at the foot of Mt. San Jacinto.

Today it is California's greatest outdoor play — perhaps the greatest in America — and a dream of a small group of enthusiastic and public-spirited citizens of Hemet has been realized. They dramatized Helen Hunt Jackson's immortal story of the love of Ramona and Alessandro and the injustices done the California Indians, and the result is an enduring memorial to the copper-colored men and women who roamed the brown hills of the Golden State before the Gringo came.

They built a 6000-seat theater in which to tell the story, and in that theater the great and the near-great have been moved to deep emotion as the players on the stage below, and on the hilltops above, have enacted their tragic roles of love and sacrifice. It is a swift-moving, awe-inspiring drama that has light as well as serious moments.

It is fitting that the Ramona Play is produced in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley, for it was here that Mrs. Jackson nearly three-quarters of a century ago found much of the material and many of the characters for her novel exposing the wrongs done the California Indians. It was here that she found Ramona and Alessandro and made them the central figures of her story. The killing of Alessandro (Juan Diego) and the subsequent trial of his slayer is a matter of record in the San Jacinto township court, and there are people still living in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley who have authentic knowledge of this and other incidents of the story.

Unlike many similar community enterprises, the Ramona Play has succeeded financially as well as artistically. Originally a chamber of commerce enterprise, the Ramona Pageant association was later incorporated as a non-profit organization. It is still owned indirectly by the chambers of commerce of Hemet and San Jacinto and the 10 directors of the association are appointed by these two civic groups. Six of the directors are named from Hemet and four from San Jacinto.

Original sponsors of the Ramona Play idea in 1921 were Burdette Raynor and the late J. O. Percival, secretary and president of the Hemet Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the late John E. King, then publisher of The Hemet News. These men presented the idea to the directors of the chamber of commerce and preparations for the first performance were put under way. Garnet Holme, famous California pageant master, was engaged to write and direct the play after arrangements had been made with Little, Brown and Company, Boston publishers, for the dramatic rights to the book. Mr. Holme died five years later and in his will bequeathed all his rights in the play to the people of Hemet and San Jacinto who, he said, "have been my friends."

The splendid community spirit behind the enterprise has always been the source of its greatest strength. Except for a few professionals, members of the cast are selected locally, according to their ability to carry their respective roles.

ICE CREAM SODA DAYS—This was the soda fountain in F. G. Wedemeyer's North Harvard street drug store in 1910, the year the City of Hemet was incorporated. It should arouse nostalgic memories in the minds of many early residents. Mrs. George Straw, still living here, was a clerk in the drug store when this picture was taken.

The Pioneer Druggists Knew All the Town's Secrets

By H. D. K.

Do you remember those huge glass jars filled with colored water that the old-time druggists used to trim their store windows? The last ones we can remember seeing were in one of the windows of the late Charles C. Abbey's pharmacy on Hemet's Florida avenue.

They were symbols of the pharmaceutical profession just as definitely as three balls over a front door identified a pawnshop.

We understand that those big jars that contained the colored water now command top prices in the antique stores.

The first Hemet druggist we knew was F. G. Wedemeyer whose store was on North Harvard street not far from the old Hemet News building. It was a large store for its day. There were no saloons in Hemet then because of "local option," and the only place in town a man could legally buy a drink was in the dining room of the old Hotel Hemet at mealtime. The hotel had what was known as a "table license." But not many of the townspeople mixed with the tourists and traveling salesmen at the hotel during hours the dining room was open.

But you could buy a drink in town if you knew your way around — and if you had the money to buy it by the bottle.

Well, we'll let you in on a secret, if you haven't already guessed it. The drug stores did business through both the front and back doors. Those bottles on the shelves did not all contain Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and other patent or prescription medicines. Often the store's inventory included more medicinal whisky than anything else.

●

Another early days Hemet-San Jacinto Valley druggist was Dr. L. A. Wright, a one-time government Indian agent, whose father-in-law established the Soboba Hot Springs resort.

Today the late Dr. Wright is better known for his progeny than his pioneer drug stores. One of his sons, Loyd Wright, is one of California's best known lawyers who in recent years has served as president of the state, national and international bar associations.

The first time we saw Loyd Wright he was working behind his father's drug store soda fountain to help pay his way through U.S.C. We have never forgotten that he charged us an extra nickel when we asked him to put a maraschino cherry atop our 10-cent chocolate sundae. Back in Minnesota, where we had come from a short time earlier, the soda fountains never charged for cherries.

Another son of this well remembered druggist is Dr. Clifford A. Wright, one of California's most distinguished physicians.

If you are as old as this writer you will recall when the druggist (we never used the word pharmacist then) performed many services for the people of his community. His store was almost an emergency clinic Everybody called him "doc" and he often had to bandage wounds, or dig a cinder out of an eye, and if it was a black eye, he might put a leech on it.

Probably he was called "doc" because there were no laws then to prevent him mixing up a batch of his own salve or his own terrible-tasting cough syrup without the benefit of a physician's prescription.

If you had a cold he could tell you what kind of a mustard or other plaster to put on your chest or back, and his advice on such items as corn and bunion and toothache remedies was not be questioned.

●

One of our fondest memories of the Hemet drug store operated by Dr. Wright concerns a Hemet dentist who was a hypnotist. He was Dr. O. R. Carrillo, oldest brother of Leo Carrillo, later one of America's best known stage, screen, radio and television entertainers.

Dr. Carrillo, as we remember him now, was as good a hypnotist as any professional we have ever seen. When the young people of Hemet gathered around Dr. Wright's drug store soda fountain in the evening, Dr. Carrillo was usually there to put on a show for them. Some of Hemet's most prominent people today often were subjects for his hypnotic talents. He never caused them embarrassment, but their audiences often teased them into half believing that while they were under the hypnotic influence they had done things they actually did not do.

One of Hemet's early drug stores employed a woman pharmacist who quickly became the confidante of ladies who possibly were too timid to discuss their ills with a male druggist.

These early day drug stores were often open at least 14 hours in 24 and were gathering places for gossip-loving townspeople from dawn to dusk, and for the town's young people, who gathered around the soda fountain in the evening.

But times have altered all that and there have been many changes in the drug store business. Today in many cases the old-time pharmacy is virtually a department store.

■

No longer can the prescription delivery boy learn to be a pharmacist simply by observation and experiment in the back room of the drug store that employs him. Today, before he can compound prescriptions and dispense drugs and medicines, he must be licensed by the state. A pharmaceutical education, now necessary before he can obtain a license, requires at least five years of study at college level and covers fundamental sciences as well as applied techniques and professional procedures. In addition, some states require the pharmacist to serve an internship of one or more years before he can pass an examination by his state board of pharmacy.

The pharmacist has kept pace with the spectacular advancement in medicine which brought such wonder drugs as the antibiotics (you know such stuff; it costs you $50 a bottle). He's still that essential fellow in our lives but he leaves practicing medicine to physicians. He can't seem to get along, however, without that cosmetic department for the ladies and there are always the shelves loaded with shaving creams. And don't forget the ball-point pens. The druggist is still the good business man.

●

Shortly after the preceding "drug store memories" article was written and used in the editor's personal "Observations" column, The Hemet News received an informative letter from J. H. Huntoon of Visalia, a member of one of the valley's best known pioneer families. He said the column aroused for him many fond memories of life here before the turn of the century.

Mr. Huntoon pointed out that he has been a pharmacist for over 60 years and began his education in the profession in San Jacinto in 1895 when he was first employed in the drug store there when it was owned by the late Dr. Lucias A. Wright and his wife, Naomi.

Since leaving San Jacinto, Mr. Huntoon has lived mostly in the San Joaquin valley where, at the time of his retirement, he was owner of a chain of drug stores. He is a brother of Mrs. Jennie Stearns of Valle Vista and a brother-in-law of Mrs. Cecil Huntoon of Hemet.

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In his letter to The News he says:

"The first pharmacy law in California became effective in 1892, and due to the desire not to force any druggist out of business, all pharmacy owners automatically became registered.

"At that time any person who had a practical knowledge of pharmacy through employment in a drug store, and who could study and pass an examination given by the state board of pharmacy, could become registered. I was registered as an assistant pharmacist in 1898 and acquired full registration several years later.

"It was permissible for an assistant to carry on the running of a drug store under the supervision of a registered pharmacist but it was not necessary for a registered pharmacist to be on the premises at all times the store was open. But he was supposed to be within call if an emergency arose.

"I managed Dr. Wright's store for two or three years under the supervision of Mrs. Wright, who became automatically registered after Dr. Wright succeeded Francisco Estudillo as Indian agent for Southern California about 1898. I lived with the family during six years of my employment at the store.

"Clifford, whom you mentioned as Dr. Clifford Wright of Los Angeles, was about 13 or 14; Loyd Wright, now a past president of the state, national and international bar association, was a boy about four years old.

"There was an older brother, Arthur, who became a successful lawyer in Los Angeles but is now deceased.

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"The Wright home in San Jacinto was a large two-story house located where the present Vosburg hotel now stands. Mrs. Vosburg's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Farmer, were running a hotel where the present Pioneer hotel (earlier the Lockwood House for many years) is located. The Farmers moved to the present Vosburg location after the Wrights had purchased a new home on North San Jacinto street. The Wrights also had a daughter, Gertrude, who lives in Los Angeles and has taught music there for many years. She married George Boalich, early days Hemet lumber yard owner.

"The state board of pharmacy eliminated the assistant pharmacist qualification procedure a number of years ago and your description of the present day requirements in obtaining a license as a pharmacist is correct.

"There is, however, one correction I can make in the 'Observations' column article. The persons who established Soboba Hot Springs were Dr. L. A. Wright's parents, Dr. and Mrs. B. A. Wright. I believe Mrs. B. A. Wright's first name was Letty. Dr. B. A. Wright treated me one time for stomach pains which probably were the result of consuming too much drug store candy

"While employed at Dr. Wright's store I drove his old mare, Bessie, every Sunday morning to Beaumont to pick up the Los Angeles Sunday papers and bring them back to San Jacinto. The Southern Pacific would drop off the papers at Beaumont and I would make the trip between Beaumont and San Jacinto by way of Lamb Canyon road. The road then was narrow, twisting and precipitous.

"In another 'Observations' column recently you mentioned the names of some early Democrats who went to Riverside to a political meeting. Two of the names were J. A. Widner and Camille Aubert and you asked if any old-timers remembered them. Well, they were both saloon keepers in old San Jacinto. I knew them both. Jack Widner was married to Antone Sherman's daughter, Annie, and they had some children."

HEMET'S FIRST BANK

Hemet's first bank was established about 1880 by W. F. Whittier, developer of the valley, and called the Bank of Hemet.

A few years before World War I it was reorganized as the First National Bank of Hemet. During the depression of the 1930s it was purchased by the Citizens National Trust and Savings Bank of Riverside and became the Hemet branch of that bank.

A few years ago the Citizens bank was sold to the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles, so the old Bank of Hemet now is the Hemet branch of Security-First National.

Officers and directors of the old First National Bank of Hemet in the Calvin Coolidge days were E. M. Stark, president; W. N. Parkhurst, cashier; R. Russell Black, assistant cashier and W. B. Clancy, Louis M. Jackson, John E. King, John W. Isle, O. E. Kellner and Asa Cox, directors.

Manager of the Security-First National branch in Hemet today is William W. Watson.

Miss Ada Hogue, now living in San Jacinto, was assistant cashier of the old Bank of Hemet around the turn of the century. The president was Alger Fast, and the cashier was J. H. Scales.

HEMET PIONEERS—Sketches on this page have been made exclusively for The Hemet News by John Fulton, famous contemporary American painter and illustrator who is now living in the Hemet Valley and teaching adult art classes at the Humphrey School of Music and the Arts. Top sketch is of T. S. Brown, Hemet's first mayor and an early days real estate broker; at left center is E. C. Warner, first city marshal and later a cigar store owner; at right center is J. H. Spencer, first fire chief, now retired but holding the title of honorary chief; at bottom is W. F. Whittier, San Francisco capitalist who founded the City of Hemet, built the Hemet dam in the mountains and was the developer of the Hemet Valley.

BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS . . . TO THE CITY OF HEMET

THE DUNCAN GIRLS. Pony riding is fun as both the girls show. Betty Jo is astride Rexanne, prize winning mare at the Duncan Pony Farm, Shirley Marie riding Snip.

THE TROPHY ROOM. Here the Duncans display over 200 ribbons and trophies won in all parts of the country.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan and Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Lawson, ranch trainers, are always ready to welcome visitors to the ranch and give a personally conducted tour to all who are interested.

THE DUNCAN FAMILY. In the Pony Farm's bright red Jeep. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Duncan in the front seat with the two family dogs "Fluffy" on Mrs. Duncan's lap, and "Spot," Mr. Duncan's bird dog in the middle. The two girls Betty Jo and Shirley Marie in the rear.

AT THE FAIR. The Horse Show in Las Vegas brought another trophy for the Duncans. Shirley Marie, dressed in tux, Betty Jo in gown, "Out for a Sunday Ride with Her Beau."

THE DUNCAN PONY FARM

On Highway 79
10 Miles South of Hemet at SAGE — Phone CLive 8-3579

OLD HOTEL HEMET—This three-story brick hotel building stood on the site later occupied by the Hotel Alessandro and now the location of the Security First National bank and an entire block of modern business buildings.

SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SMELLS OF LONG AGO

By H.D.K.

While confined to quarters with what our doctor diagnosed as a slight indisposition, we got to thinking of a few things we would like to see once again before the eventual not-so-slight indisposition comes along.

From the things we would like to see again it was but a short step to the things we would like to hear again, and from these an even shorter step to the things we would like to smell again.

•

Among the things we would like to see again are these:

The old red depot that stood across the street from The Hemet News office, and old Gus Matthews, the brakeman, swinging down from the steps of the end coach as the evening train chugged in from San Bernardino. . . . And the smoke rolling up across the sky just before the engine would come into sight from the direction of Winchester. . . . And those Fourth of July auto races from Hemet to San Jacinto and return with Charlie Ticknor and Bill Bradford at the wheels of their horseless carriages. . . . The red-hot glow of a pot-bellied stove in the center of a schoolroom on a January afternoon. . . . The shadow of a summer cloud gliding over the rippling surface of a Minnesota wheat field. . . . The shining silver and brass of a horse-drawn fire engine. . . . The dust-covered bandage around our big toe after we had stubbed it. . . . The face of one of our favorite teachers one minute after one of our childhood sweethearts (she's a grandmother now) had held up her hand to ask if she could leave the room and the teacher said No, it was just her imagination!

•

The things we would like to hear again include: The old Socialist who used to orate from a soap box in front of a Harvard street pool hall Saturday nights. He once concluded his lecture with these words: "I am an atheist, thank God!" . . . John Woolry sharpening plowshares at his old Hemet blacksmith shop. . . . Jim Sutherland tuning up his fiddle for the Saturday night dance at Winchester. . . . The music and old Dad Ward's voice when he told stories about the Civil war period. . . . The rumble of a wagon crossing the loose planks on the covered bridge across the river near our grandfather's farm in Indiana. . . . The squeaking of a brand-new set of harness on a span of bays at Gilbert Spence's livery stable. . . . Old Mr. Smith on his knees by his front-porch rocker talking with the Lord at sundown. . . . The mandolin quartet in Charlie Randall's barber shop.

•

Some of the things we would like to smell again are these:

The first drops of summer rain in the dust of Harvard street before Hemet's streets were paved. . . . The homemade bread and rolls on the kitchen table when we came home from school. . . . The hoof-parings of farm horses being shod in the above mentioned blacksmith shop of the late John Woolry. . . . The bolts of calico on the drygoods and notions side of the old Tyson and Broadwell stores.

DEPRESSION PRICES

Advertisements in The Hemet News 30 years ago probably would startle you a bit if you compared the prices to the cost of the same items today.

Back in 1931 you could buy in a Hemet grocery store a medium sized can of pork and beans for six cents. A good all-wool man's suit could be bought for $19.75, and you could get an inner-spring mattress for a double bed for $11. Coffee was 32 cents a pound.

It was 30 years ago (1931) that the "great depression" tightened its grip on the economy of the United States. The dollar had high purchasing power, but the trouble was the scarcity of greenbacks.

A Hemet real estate broker advertised a practically new four-room house for $1200. But the down payment of $150 was rather high, percentage-wise, compared to down payments asked today on residences costing $15,000 or more.

Do You Remember:

When Hemet supported two blacksmith shops?

The Saturday night dances in the hall next to the old Winchester store? In the three-piece orchestra were Adelaide Clarke, piano; James Sutherland, violin, and Win Strout, drums.

NOTED EDUCATOR

Among early days residents of what is now the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley who became more or less famous in later life was Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, late president of Mills college. Much interesting information about her early life has been uncovered in late years by the Rev. George Hedley, Mills college chaplain and professor of sociology there, who has made several research trips to Southern California in search of material for use in a biography of the woman educator.

The Rev. Mr. Hedley was in Hemet and San Jacinto and interviewed pioneer people who knew Dr. Reinhardt when she lived in San Jacinto as a girl. When here he spent many hours going through the bound files of early issues of The Hemet News.

The Rev. Mr. Hedley learned, among other things, that 64 years ago the then Miss Aurelia Henry and her sister, Evelyn, performed in a musical benefit event at Escondido. Aurelia Henry was then 18.

She was born on Easter day, April 1, 1877, in San Francisco. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. William Warner Henry.

When Aurelia was 13 the Henry family moved to San Jacinto and lived in this valley until moving in 1895 to a ranch three miles west of Escondido, where they lived for about a year before moving to Berkeley.

In Berkeley Miss Henry started her higher education. She was graduated from the University of California and in 1905 received her doctorate from Yale university, four years before she was married to George Frederick Reinhardt.

Mr. Reinhardt died in June, 1914, leaving his widow with two small sons. Two years later she was named president of Mills, in which position she served for 27 years. Her death occurred five years after her retirement.

The

BARGAIN SPOT

COMPLETE LINE OF
NEW AND USED
FURNITURE
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LOTS OF ODDS AND ENDS

WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS

PAN NURSERY

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

W. FLORIDA HEMET OL 8-2407

PAN

. . . Do You Remember?

By H.D.K.

When Rowley S. Smith of San Jacinto was seated as county supervisor from the fifth district in 1919? Smith had defeated veteran Supervisor John Shaver of San Jacinto but Shaver won the job back in the election four years later.

When on college campuses only women doctors were employed to give the girl students a few delicately phrased hints on the facts of life?

When, back in the sinful twenties, girls would check their corsets with their coats when they entered public dance halls? The popular dances of those days called for an awful lot of wiggling.

When they made phonograph records on black wax cylinders? And there was an announcer to tell you the name of the song, just like they do nowadays on television. There was one of those old Edison phonographs that played cylindrical records in our home when we were a kid. Some of the songs were: "Put On Your Old Gray Bonnet," "I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls," "Redwing," "Steamboat Bill," "She Had Rings on Her Fingers and Bells on Her Toes," and "I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now."

When a delegation of Hemet Republicans went to San Bernardino to hear William McKinley, running for President, who arrived on a Santa Fe special? They had a calliope on a flat car at the rear of the train and played it full blast when the train stopped at towns along the route of the campaign tour.

When pretty girls served doughnuts and coffee on station platforms when the troop trains came through town during World War I? Being on a branch line, Hemet didn't get any troop trains.

Do You Remember:

When Loyal C. Kelley was elected district attorney back in 1918? He succeeded Lyman Evans. Kelley appointed O. K. Morton assistant district attorney. Later Morton was elected a judge of the superior court and remained on the bench until his death about 1955.

When the stores were almost as busy the week following Christmas as they were the week before? It was exchange week, when you took back the gifts that didn't fit or, for some other reason, you couldn't use or didn't like. Hemet merchants tell us the exchange business isn't as brisk as it used to be.

When they tied the cannery and laundry whistles wide open at midnight on New Year's eve? Another time they did it was when news of the signing of the World War I armistice was received.

When some people predicted that tobacco would become an important Riverside county agricultural crop? Back in 1909 the Riverside Chamber of Commerce was distributing packets of tobacco seed free to farmers who would promise faithful cultivation in accord with the directions furnished by the government. The seeds of tobacco varieties believed by the department of agriculture to be well suited to this section of the country. So far as we know there isn't any tobacco grown in Riverside county today, 50 years later.

When early days local automobile owners would brag about their cars if they were able to make the Box Springs grade in second gear? Prior to 1914, no car ever did it in high.

When the late John Thomas, once a city councilman at San Jacinto, operated a billiard parlor and lunch counter on North Harvard street? He sold out to the late Homer A. Clark and opened a full-fledged Hemet restaurant.

Do You Remember:

When E. C. Warner, a retired railroad engineer from Tacoma, owned cigar stores on North Harvard street and later on Florida avenue? His cigars received almost motherly care and were kept always at the proper moisture point. The shop was headquarters for the downtown men's debating society. It was a big civic event when Ed enlarged his business by putting in a root beer barrel.

When a visionary inventor built a huge funnel-shaped wind tunnel just off the highway near Whitewater for the purpose of generating electricity by wind power? He couldn't have picked a better place, because at that point there is almost constant wind day and night. He didn't produce any electricity there, but his tunnel stood for years and aroused much curiosity on the part of travelers.

When the hardware stores lined their aisles with kegs of nails?

When Hemet had a city ordinance prohibiting expectorating on the sidewalk? You could be fined $5. Many cities had such ordinances 40 to 50 years ago. It's been a long time since we read of the enforcement of such laws anywhere in the country.

When many of the better-dressed business men in town had their suits made by Bill Rothaus, the tailor? Bill made a modest fortune in Hemet and moved to Sacramento. Soon he had a state civil service job as tailoring instructor at the Preston School of Industry.

When, in the war years, your good neighbors would lend you a few rationing stamps to help you get a pound of butter or a roast for Sunday dinner if company was coming? We knew several thoughtful people who, when invited to a friend's home for dinner, would leave a rationing stamp or two under the plate when they left the table. It was a gesture much appreciated by hostesses in those difficult days.

When Rose Aguirre, now of San Jacinto, presided as queen of the colorful Spanish court during San Bernardino's centennial observance in 1910? She is a member of one of California's most famous pioneer Spanish families and was one of the most beautiful girls in the state when San Bernardino elected her its queen.

When the kids around town found it refreshing to run along behind the street sprinkler wagon and cool off their feet on the hot summer days?

When Max and Perry Green of San Bernardino operated one of the first motor stagelines between Hemet and Idyllwild? Later they became widely known as owners of exclusive stage line franchises in the San Bernardino mountains.

When Champ Clark, the famous U.S. senator from Missouri, spoke in Hemet in behalf of Woodrow Wilson in the presidential campaign of 1912?

When the Hemet Eagles lodge held Sunday afternoon stag picnics in a eucalyptus grove out Diamond Valley way?

When the larger Hemet grocery stores began installing electric-powered coffee grinders, replacing the old big-wheeled affairs that were turned by hand? That was progress in the good old days.

When John Deegan, Lee Sheppard and H. P. Herman each had desks in a real estate office on the east side of North Harvard street? They closed the office on Saturday afternoons so all could go to the Hemet Stock farm track for the weekly horse racing matinee.

Do You Remember:

When you wouldn't think of starting out in your car for a Sunday drive without tire patching equipment, a full box of tools, an extra can of gasoline and a couple of well filled desert water bags hung outside the car; and, of course, a tire pump?

When, if you returned from a trip of a hundred miles or more and regaled your neighbors with stories about not having a single flat tire, you won for yourself a reputation as a blowhard or a prevaricator?

When on hot summer days smartly styled women carried parasols? How long has it been since you've seen a woman carrying a parasol, and could you buy one in a Hemet store today?

When kids could pick up after-school jobs distributing handbills? Not nowadays. There's a law against it. We can remember the day when a principal source of revenue for The Hemet News was the printing of handbills. If we can find anybody in the shop who will know what we're talking about, we'll try to find out how long it has been since we turned out a handbill job.

When the shoe store tossed in a buttonhook or a shoehorn, depending on whether you bought a pair of low-cut shoes or button shoes?

When, at the beginning of the second World War, a large acreage in the Hemet area was planted to a new variety of rubber plant that was expected to do away with the need for imported raw rubber in this country? Do any of our readers know whether any of these plants survived and are still growing here?

When "talking pictures" came to Hemet and San Jacinto movie houses? It was early in 1929 that William Martin started installation of Vitaphone talking equipment at his Hemet theater. The equipment was said to have cost $5000 and five experts were sent here to install it. The Vitaphone system used large size wax recordings synchronized to the action of the film. The Soboba theater at San Jacinto was installing sound equipment known as "Project-o-Phone." It was the first unit manufactured and marketed by a corporation of which L. A. Reynolds, manager of the Soboba was vice president. The original sound equipment in both theaters was primitive and was replaced within a year or so.

When A. J. Berg of Corona succeeded H. A. Walker as Hemet's police chief? That was in May, 1929, and followed one of the most drastic shake-ups in the history of municipal government here.

When W. N. Parkhurst, cashier of the First National Bank of Hemet, was elected in 1929 to the Hemet school board? He succeeded J. O. Percival, who retired voluntarily. Roy C. Cage of Valle Vista was another member of the board. That was the year the J. C. Penney company opened its Hemet store.

When kids of the valley would congregate to watch the signboard artist paint that picture of the Bull Durham bull on the farmer's barn?

Do You Remember:

When the Sorkness building was erected next to the former location of the Penney company store on Florida avenue? Charles Hannah was the architect and he asked The Hemet News to locate for him four little girls, six to nine years of age, to pose as models for statues to be used in decorating the exterior. The next time we drive by the building, we intend to look for those statues; and if they are there, will some friend be good enough to inform us who were the models. Those little girls could be grandmothers now and may still be living here.

When there were two millinery shops on Hemet's North Harvard street, another operated by Mrs. T. S. Brown at her home and still another at San Jacinto? All the milliners made the hats they sold.

When shortly after the turn of the century, eggs were three dozen for 25 cents, butter 10 cents a pound, milk five cents a quart, and the butcher gave away the liver and treated the kids to bologna? Furthermore, the hired girl received $2 a week and did the washing; and women did not powder and paint in public, neither did they smoke, vote or play poker. No one, in those days, was operated on for appendicitis.

When Hemet had a Chinese restaurant and a Chinese laundry, and the Vosburg hotel had a Chinese cook who remained there 30 years until he returned to the land of his ancestors to die?

When the better housekeeper took up the carpets twice a year, usually spring and fall, and hung them over the clothesline for beating with a carpet-beater to knock out the dirt? Then they brought them back into the house and tacked them down again. Rarely did the husband lend a hand, either.

Do You Remember:

When Hemet high school athletic teams rode over the narrow, twisting Lamb Canyon road in horse-drawn vehicles for their Beaumont and Banning games? The start was made early in the morning and the teams reached home late at night.

When Dr. Louisa Smith and her sister operated their Park Hill nursery business at the southwest corner of Florida and Juanita?

When a wave of hysterical hatred for anything of German origin swept the country in World War I? They even banned the name "hamburger" for ground meat because it smacked of the German city Hamburg. It became Liberty steak. What a comeback hamburger made.

The life-size wooden horse that stood for many years in front of Rufie Swift's harness shop on Florida avenue? It was one of the few in Southern California. Fifteen or 20 years ago we had an inquiry about it from a widely known radio personality who had seen it when driving through Hemet. Incidentally, we think it's a fact that the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley never had a wooden cigar store Indian.

When a grizzled prospector could always get an audience in Hemet's Harvard street pool rooms by retelling the story of the famed lost mine of Peg Leg Smith?

When on holidays and summertime Sundays the Santa Fe ran a special round trip train from Hemet to the beach communities?

When Hemet drug stores hired boys with bicycles to deliver prescription medicine, even at night and half a day on Sundays?

38 YEARS AGO

Hemet's automotive center started on this corner

WE ARE VERY PROUD TO PROVIDE THE FINEST IN AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY IN THIS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE CITY OF HEMET

RICKENBOUGH

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GLEN C. RICKENBOUGH

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"THE VALLEY'S MOST COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE CENTER"

STRING QUARTET—The young men above really made their instruments talk back in 1899 when they played for dances and other events in this part of Riverside county. Left to right, they are: Clifford Wright, now a prominent retired Los Angeles physician; Carl Carlson, a San Jacinto pharmacist now deceased; Joe Huntoon, now a retired pharmacist living at Visalia and Ed Sager, butcher and San Jacinto merchant, now deceased. Clifford Wright is a brother of Loyd Wright, past president of the California Bar association, American Bar association and the International Bar association.

Only Fourteen Hemet High School Graduates in 1910

There were 14 young men and women in the graduating class of Hemet high school in 1910, the year Hemet was incorporated as a city. The graduates were: Loyd Wright, Bertha Jones, Julia Kingsbury, Inez Beale, Elwin Rowell, Carrie Van Winkle, Jeffie Bowles, Vivian Beale, Dorothy Meier, Ray Proebstel, Alessandra Brown, Monte Gene Rather, William Brooke and Gertrude Yoder.

The high school faculty that year consisted of E. T. Boughn, principal, and five teachers. The teachers were Miss Anderson, Miss de Fremery, Mr. Rawson, Miss Nordyke and Miss Hudson.

Members of the debating team were Loyd Wright, Ray Proebstel and Chester McIntosh. Mr. Wright went on to become one of California's leading attorneys and president of the California, American and International Bar associations. Mr. McIntosh became superintendent of schools at Puente and his brother, Harold, became school superintendent at Colton.

Members of the staff of the Tahquitz, high school annual, in 1910, were: Julia Kingsbury, Clyde Grover, Jessie Garrigan, Elwin Rowell, Sarah Lindenburger, Dorothea Bradford, May Carson, Clark Conner, Alice Brown, Carrie Van Winkle, Lois Carson, Edgar Obert, Monte Gene Rather and Chester McIntosh. Miss Kingsbury later became Mrs. Loyd Wright.

Members of the baseball team were: Chester McIntosh, Loyd Wright, Forest Ogan, Roy Sinclair, Ray Proebstel, Elwin Rowell, Edgar Bartlett, Rupert Wedemeyer and Harold McIntosh.

Girls' basketball team members were: Margaret Hyer, Sadie Avery, Hilda Ogan, Carrie Van Winkle, Ruth Brown and Alice Prince.

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

Hemet Union High school had its origin in 1892, when five districts combined in the establishment of a high school in a rented hall in San Jacinto. In 1894 the school moved into a new building erected for it in Hemet at the southwest corner of Buena Vista street and Acacia avenue. At that time San Jacinto city withdrew from the district, leaving only Hemet, Diamond, Florida (Valle Vista), and Bowers (east of San Jacinto).

From its origin until the year 1903 the school had a rapid succession of principals and teachers on low salaries.

The eighth principal, Prof. E. T. Boughn, served from 1903 to 1912. During his tenure the enrollment increased from 25 to 73 and the faculty from three to five. A noteworthy event in that period was the erection of the present senior high school building at a cost of $40,000.

In 1912 Principal Boughn was succeeded by H. O. Hanna. Succeeding Mr. Hanna in 1915 was Dr. Oren B. Waite. In 1921 Paul G. Ward become principal. Since the retirement of Mr. Ward, the principals have been E. E. Oertel, E. G. Garrison and Dr. Jacob F. Wiens, the present principal.

A junior college was organized with about 20 students in 1917 but proved unsuccessful and was dropped after the second year. A junior high school was established in 1920.

Do You Remember:

When most of the smaller farmers raised a flock of turkeys for the Thanksgiving and Christmas markets? You bought your bird live at the farm and, if not too faint-hearted, you did your own ax work the day before the holiday.

MARTIN MEIER

One of the most interesting of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley's pioneers — if one could get him to talk — was Martin Meier, who had been here nearly three score years when he died about 25 years ago.

Martin Meier was a native of Germany and he arrived in San Jacinto on the day Sam Temple (Jim Farrar) was acquitted of the murder of John Diego (Alessandro) in the court of Justice of the Peace S. V. Tripp. This was March 31, 1883. He obtained room and board at the home of Mrs. J. C. Jordan, the Aunt Ri of the Ramona story, and later engaged in lumbering and cattle raising in the San Jacinto mountains.

Seventy years ago Martin Meier's mountain cattle ranch adjoined lands of Angelo Domenigoni, who died in 1929 in Switzerland. Martin and Angelo disagreed regarding the location of the line separating their ranches and the "shooting scrape" that followed is one of the epic incidents of the early history of this region. A bullet from Domenigoni's gun grazed Martin's scalp just above the left ear. After each man had emptied his gun at the other they went their separate ways, but in a few days Angelo sent word to Martin to be prepared to "shoot it out" the next time they met.

The feud continued for about 30 years, when one day Domenigoni walked into Meier's Lumber yard office in Hemet, laid his gun on the desk and suggested that they "talk this thing over." They shook hands at the close of a brief conference and during the remainder of Domenigoni's lifetime they were intimate friends.

As a young man attending college in Germany Martin Meier several times met and talked with another young man whose name was Wilhelm and whom destiny had picked as the future and, as it happened, the last German Emperor. Martin remembered him as a youth of pleasing personality interested in commerce more than in militarism.

When he had reached his early twenties Martin Meier decided to see the world. He booked passage for South America but the vessel was delayed 12 hours in sailing. Anxious to be on his way, he changed his destination and boarded a ship headed for New York.

The opportunity to pioneer in America appeared to him and he soon crossed the continent to California and arrived at Old San Jacinto, little dreaming that this valley was to be his home for the next half century, never suspecting that a modern city to be known as Hemet would be built somewhere on the vast expanse of sagebrush land between the trading posts of San Jacinto and Temecula.

Pay less for the POWER you need!

PUT YOURSELF BEHIND THE WHEEL

FOR AS LITTLE AS $599 DOWN

CASH AND/OR TRADE

A NEW FORD TRACTOR

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- 3 crop years or 36 months to pay the balance!
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Convenient terms to suit your needs. All include life, collision and property insurance.

SO EASY TO OWN—These terms make it convenient for you to own a new Ford tractor now. And, there's your choice of power sizes, wheel arrangements and engine types. See Ford soon, for better, more economical farming.

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DECORATION DAY, 1910—A large percentage of the men in this group honoring America's war dead at Memorial day exercises at San Jacinto Valley cemetery 50 years ago were members of the Grand Army of the Republic. The last surviving Civil war veteran in Hemet was the late J. C. Shideler who passed away about 25 years ago.

Health Giving Waters Known in 1879

1756271

Gilman Hot Springs Resort Had Early Beginning

Nostalgic memories of yesteryear were recalled by two former valley residents when they returned for a visit to Gilman's Hot Springs a few years ago. They were Charles and George Branch, whose father, Sidney J. Branch, was the original owner of the resort. He purchased the property in 1879 and it remained in the Branch family until it was sold to W. E. Gilman and his brothers in 1913.

Charles Branch was the manager of the spa which for the first two years consisted mainly of several small cottages and tents out under the trees. Since it was the first resort of its kind in this section of the country, it was quite popular even in that long ago day and was free to all comers.

At the beginning, there were only three springs, black and white sulphur and soda, and all the trees had to be carried from the river bed for transplanting. Mr. Branch describes the original site as a cactus patch with a large vat in the center, which, he was told, was used to wash sheep. Of all the trees originally planted, only two remain, so far as he can tell.

A mud bath was constructed in the reeds by the simple expedient of cutting down several stalks and placing a vat in the space thus made. Prior to this comparatively "modern" invention, the Indians and Mexicans would merely lie in the mud until relief from rheumatism or other similar aches was effected.

The first hotel which accommodated 75 people was destroyed in the early 1900's by a fire which also burned down the original bath house. The family home was on the site of the present day Gilman home and they had another two-story house on the hill which was demolished by a brush fire. None of the original buildings remain standing.

In contrast to present day travel, the first visitors came in wagons, carts, buggies and on horseback, and carried their own camping equipment. An average of 25 to 50 tents were to be found out under the trees.

Traffic was routed along the Burns track, a mere set of wheel marks along the river. Many times travelers used gunpowder to blow off the lock which was frequently kept on the gate by the owners of the road, which ran from the San Jacinto bridge of today to Massacre canyon. Mail came in by way of San Gorgonio (now Beaumont), for at that time there were no buildings in what is now Hemet and very few in San Jacinto.

While his brother Charles was watching the growth of the resort, George Branch was mining in Death valley, the Mojave desert, Funeral mountains and various other mountain and desert sites in both California and Nevada. He was a prospector for 59 years but made frequent trips to this valley to visit his brother and his family.

The brothers recall that the valley's first sawmill was erected by a cousin of theirs in the San Jacinto mountains on Strawberry creek. He was employed by the firm of Saffron-Bradley. Another recollection is of the Compton & Kerr company which started San Jacinto and Compton.

From the Cumberland stage to the modern automobile is quite a transition but these two hardy pioneers seem to have made it with very little trouble.

Gilman's Hot Springs resort today is one of the finest spas in California. It has an 18-hole golf course, a new and modern bath house and a new unit of motel cottages to supplement its hotel rooms. Earl Gilman, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gilman, is president of the company.

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CITY WAS STARTING TO GROW IN 1906

This was Hemet in 1906:

Officers of the Bradford Warehouse company, wholesale and retail dealers in hay and grain, were H. S. Dukes, president; C. M. Dietterich, vice-president, and W. S. Rather, secretary and treasurer. . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Jacques were managers of the Hotel Hemet. F. H. Holloway was manager of the Hemet Livery stables which operated the Hemet and Idyllwild stage line. . . . Owners of the Hemet Carriage and Implement company were J. S. Ourish and W. S. Coughlin. The business was on the ground floor of the opera house building. . . . Hemet had a Methodist and Baptist church and there were plans for an Episcopal church. The Christian church held services in Ferguson hall. . . . Organizations included the W.C.T.U., the Odd Fellows lodge, the Maccabees, the Independent Order of Foresters and the Lady Maccabees. . . . W. F. Whittier, Hemet's founder, had just erected the three-story opera house building. . . . H. A. Porteous operated a grocery store on North Harvard street. . . . Mrs. J. M. Keen was manager of the Keen and Allen camp three miles from Idyllwild. It had a large two-story mountain hotel, a group of cottages and tent houses. . . . One of Hemet's business establishments was a large flour mill. . . . William Wilson had established the Hemet Nursery company. . . . W. F. Whittier and H. E. Bothin, Hemet Valley developers, and H. H. Hubbard, Redlands banker, were among prominent capitalists planning a railroad from Hemet to connect with the Southern Pacific line at a point in San Timoteo canyon, a distance of 24 miles. . . . Dr. Joseph E. Blackshaw had recently moved from San Jacinto to Hemet. The Hemet News said, "his offices in the Bothin block were fitted up with all the latest appliances, including an X-ray machine." He had practiced medicine longer than any other physician in the valley. A San Jacinto newspaper said that Dr. Blackshaw in six years had not lost a single case of fever of any description. . . . F. G. Wedemeyer was Hemet's first drug store owner. He served his apprenticeship in Germany. He was graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and had owned two drug stores in Philadelphia for seven years before coming here. . . . D. W. Gauld and his sister, Miss Tina Gauld, operated a grocery store at the northwest corner of Florida and Carmalita. They had come 13 years earlier with their parents from Scotland. . . . I. B. Gibbel, hardware and implement store owner, had come here from Springfield, Illinois, 14 years earlier. . . . I. G. Silver was proprietor of the Hemet Harness shop. . . . E. M. Clarke, watchmaker, had come from Massachusetts to establish a jewelry and musical instrument store. He was the father of Mrs. Adelaide Clarke Fitzpatrick, still a resident here. . . . W. A. Ballou owned the Hemet Transfer company. W. B. Tripp was proprietor of the Hemet Meat market. R. G. Swift owned a shoe repair shop. F. S. Church owned a feed yard and boarding stables. W. E. Hyer was a building contractor. . . . F. K. Strasser was a San Jacinto physician and surgeon. Dr. C. V. Lawford was a valley dentist and James Jackson and Charles D. Cram were physicians and surgeons.

AT MUSEUM—Maure Hurt, member of Ramona Bowl Museum committee, standing beside reconstructed milk house which originally stood at the home of Mrs. J. C. Jordan (Aunt Ri of the Ramona story) in old San Jacinto.

Aunt Ri's Milk House

One of the most unusual features in the Ramona Bowl museum is a portion of the red brick milk house that stood for many years at the Hewitt street home of Mrs. J. C. Jordan—the original "Aunt Ri" of the Ramona story.

Responsible for rebuilding part of this historic structure at the Ramona Bowl were the late John A. Faull and Maure Hurt, members of the Ramona Pageant association's museum committee. It was Mr. Hurt who actually suggested the milk house idea, because as a boy he knew Mrs. Jordan well and was a member of her Sunday school class.

The milk house was the only building still standing on the Jordan place when the idea of moving it to the bowl occurred to Mr. Hurt.

It was a small brick structure with walls 12 to 18 inches thick and double cement floors. There was one door on the west side and a vent in each gable.

The present owner of the Jordan property told Mr. Hurt he had tried to sell the building intact but was unable to do so. For that reason he planned to tear it down and salvage what he could of the used brick.

Mr. Hurt and Mr. Faull arranged to buy the complete west end of the building when it was torn down.

Photographs were taken of that portion of the house and were used as guides in reconstructing it at the museum. The original lumber and brick were used.

Among the stories told by Mr. Hurt is the one concerning Aunt Ri's cape, which is mentioned in both the book and the play when Joe says to Ramona, "Ma would not be without her old cape." It is not commonly known that this old cape was made from the skin of a local mountain lion, tanned by the Indians. Aunt Ri wore it to church and on all public occasions, summer or winter.

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FIRST SERVICE CLUB

Oldest of Hemet's service clubs is the Kiwanis, organized in 1922. The first president was Oliver P. Ensley, attorney. Other officers the first year were B. F. Himes, first vice president; the Rev. Floyd J. Seaman, second vice president; C. M. Dietterich, secretary, and John A. Faull, treasurer.

Charter members were:

A. Anderson, Vern Barger, Nelson L. Browning, A. E. Brudin, Emil Brudin, Austin H. Buckley, E. J. Cranston, Harry C. Dane, J. R. DePeel, Clyde M. Dietterich, Lee Durham, Oliver P. Ensley, Irwin E. Farrar, John A. Faull, Frank D. Felt, S. L. Gathercole, Meyer S. Glasser, C. E. Goodhue, James A. Hall, B. F. Himes, Charles W. Howard, John E. King, William Kingham, C. C. Kuykendall, Chester M. Kline, Ernest J. Lindquist, Rev. Frederick Miller, E. B. Murphy, John W. McCann, C. E. McManigal, W. H. Pawson, Jr., J. O. Percival, W. S. Rather, Burdette Raynor, W. L. Record, Ernest W. Rickard. Floyd J. Seaman, John Shaver, F. S. Smith, H. H. Spaulding, James R. Sutherland, Carl M. Thompson, Carsten Truelsen, J. S. Tyson, Charles Van Fleet, Howard C. Warren, James H. Welch, Dr. John B. Weston, Herbert Williams and H. R. Wilson.

VALLEY'S FIRST BIG REAL ESTATE DEAL

Mrs. Hubert Buxton, past president of the Hemet Woman's club, witnessed the making of much of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley history. Her parents came here in 1884.

Her brother, Homer A. Clark, Hemet business man who died about nine years ago, said in an interview shortly before he passed away that he could remember only one man still living who was in the valley when he arrived here with his parents. That man was Dan Tripp of San Jacinto. But Dan Tripp is now also dead.

Many events of early days in old San Jacinto were vividly remembered by Mr. Clark. He remembered especially the valley's first important real estate deal whereby H. T. Hewitt of old San Jacinto purchased 8000 acres of land from the Estudillo family for $2.50 per acre. A few years later Hewitt sold the land to the Whittier interests for $20 an acre.

Hewitt's disposal of the land was prompted by the fact that he was facing trial for murder and needed money for his defense, according to Clark. He was found not guilty, but, like several other citizens of old San Jacinto in those days, he had quite a reputation as a gunman.

THE MORSE FAMILY

Whenever Hemet Valley old-timers get together conversation eventually gets around to the Morse family — especially the three brothers, Mart, Grant and George, all now deceased.

The parents of the Morse brothers were Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Morse and the family came to this valley from Missouri in 1888.

They came to Hemet by wagon from Beaumont, which was the nearest railroad point at that time. They settled first in what is now known as Reinhart canyon, even before the Reinhart family lived here. It was then known as Hucknell canyon. The father had been in the drug and shoe store business in the middle west before coming here and was in ill health most of the time after he arrived. The family engaged in dairying in San Jacinto in the early days and the father was one of the first justices of the peace in Hemet township.

After the earthquake of 1899 the Morse family made a wagon trip as far north as Portland, Oregon, and at Palo Alto Mart and Grant Morse hauled materials for the construction of the first of the Stanford university buildings. The wagon trip, including the time spent at Palo Alto, covered a period of a year and a half.

For many years George Morse was associated with his brother, Grant, in extensive farm and cattle raising operations here, and following Grant's death George Morse, despite his physical handicap, took over the management of the ranch properties in Diamond valley and the mountain country around Sage.

Mart Morse, one of the first employees of the Lake Hemet Water company, died in 1935 and Grant, a large scale grain farmer and cattle raiser, passed away in 1937. George Morse, an invalid confined to a wheel chair 40 years, died in 1946.

When the Morse family arrived here 64 years ago, there was not a single building within what is now the Hemet city limits, and the great Hemet dam which was to furnish water for irrigation of more than 10,000 acres, had not been built. The Morse brothers saw the first railroad train come into what is now the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley.

Do You Remember:

When most of the city's churches held "watchnight" parties on New Year's eve, the guests watching the old year out and the new year in? You knew when midnight came as the laundry or cannery whistle would sound a dozen or so blasts.

GRAIN HARVESTING—This Menifee valley harvesting picture was taken in 1906. Men are Jim Sentney, driver; Clark McEuen, sewer; Ray Young, Frank Troop, Frank Morres and Guy Haslam.

Do You Remember:

When the young blades wore peg-topped trousers? Some of them even added a touch of smartness to their attire with cloth-topped button shoes.

Do You Remember:

When your electric light bulbs gave off a comparatively pale, yellowish light? But they seemed to last far longer than today's whiter light bulbs.

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HEMET VALLEY REALTY & Insurance

Many of Valley's Home-town Boys, Girls Made Good

The editor has been counting on his fingers some of the young people from the Hemet-San Jacinto area who have gone out into the world and become outstandingly successful in their fields, but he ran out of fingers. Some names that come easily to mind are:

Chief Meyers, a member of the Santa Rosa Indian tribe, who for many years was the star catcher for the New York Giants in the days of Christy Matheson and John McGraw . . . . Ira Hards, son of a San Jacinto merchant, who played leading roles opposite Maude Adams on the legitimate stage . . . . Dr. Lulu Hunt Peters who was a former Hemet and Valle Vista school teacher . . . . Dr. Aurelia Henry Reinhardt, a San Jacinto girl who became president of Mills college . . . . Fred Morris, nephew of the late Mont Webster, who became a noted civil engineer and was sent to many far places in the world on the recommendation of John Hays Hammond . . . . H. L. Carnahan, attorney and former lieutenant governor of California, who attended Hemet schools as a boy . . . . Loyd Wright, Hemet high school graduate who is senior member of one of the leading law firms in Los Angeles and a past president of the California, American and International Bar associations, and his brother, Dr. Clifford A. Wright, nationally known Los Angeles physician . . . . Laura Woodhead Steere, San Jacinto girl who became widely recognized as a sculptress . . . . Dr. Drummond McCunn, who attended Hemet schools when his father was a Presbyterian minister here, has risen rapidly in the field of education and is now superintendent of a large San Francisco Bay area school district. He is a former president of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses association, a position he held while assistant school superintendent at Pasadena . . . . Archie Wedemeyer, son of a pioneer Hemet druggist, is head of the art department in the San Francisco school system . . . . Harold Dryden, Hemet high school graduate in 1915, has a top executive position with the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company . . . . The late Harry K. Coffey, Hemet high school graduate whose mother was the late Mrs. Harry Stanton, was one of the country's leading insurance executives, with offices in Portland . . . . The late Will Johnson, millionaire Southern California industrialist, developer, banker and philanthropist, spent his early boyhood in San Jacinto and Winchester and attended school in Hemet. His father at different times operated a stage line from San Jacinto to Idyllwild, a general store at Winchester, and was the second sheriff of Riverside county . . . . Mrs. Kathryn Gehrels, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Warren C. Anderson of Hemet and a graduate of Hemet high school, is now one of California's leading women attorneys and has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme court. Her specialty in the field of law is family relations . . . . No list of successful former valley men would be complete without the name of E. S. Boalich, an engineer who occupied a very technical and responsible position in the depletion department of the income tax division in Washington. He was the only boy in the Hemet high school graduating class of 1900. His younger brother, George Boalich, now of Los Angeles, was an early days Hemet lumber yard owner. George Boalich's wife is a sister of Loyd and Clifford Wright. . . . Lloyd Nichols, once a student telegraph operator at the Hemet depot, has become one of the country's top authorities in the field of wireless telegraph. He is now supervisor in charge of the operations office of Press Wireless, Inc., in New York. Press Wireless is a news transmission agency owned by the New York Times and other metropolitan newspapers to bring news from the far corners of the earth.

Because it is the result of only a few minutes of concentration, this list cannot be considered complete by any means. Readers of The Hemet News are invited to suggest additional names for use in case this piece is published again in years to come.

THE LAW IN 1920—At right above is Hayes A. ("Happy") Walker, Hemet city marshal, and Al Alderman, city night watchman, as they appeared in 1920. They were the entire Hemet police force. Picture from Ray Spence collection.

MILHOLLAND HOME—This pioneer residence at what is now Valle Vista (then Florida) was the home of one of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley area's best-known early days families. Bessie Wilson, popular Hemet registered nurse, was born there more years ago than she cares to remember.

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FLORIDA POSTOFFICE—Commonly known as the Prince house, This two-story brick building housed the postoffice and several stores in Florida (now Valle Vista) before the turn of the century. It was badly damaged in the Christmas morning earthquake of 1899 and after the quake it remained as a one-story building. The earthquake of 1918 finished it and no sign of it remains today. The family in the foreground is unidentified. The photo is from the Bessie Wilson collection.

HEMET HOME OF ALL-AMERICAN ROSES

Helping keep Hemet on the map throughout the United States and in many foreign lands is the Howard Rose company and its subsidiary enterprises. Founded 52 years ago by the late Charles W. Howard as a wholesale rosebush nursery, it has grown steadily until today it ships an average of 1,300,000 bushes annually to the nursery trade from coast to coast.

Although still known locally as the Howard Rose company, it is now known to the trade as Howard's of Hemet to distinguish it from another Howard nursery company in Southern California.

•

New fame came to the Howard organization a few years ago when for the second time in two years Robert V. Lindquist, the company's young rose hybridizer, won national distinction for himself and his company through the selection of one of his new varieties as the "rose of the year" by the All-America Rose Selections committee.

Mr. Lindquist's All-America rose award in 1955 was for Tiffany, a hybrid tea rose developed by him in the hybridizing beds at the Lindquist ranch east of Valle Vista.

In 1954 Mr. Lindquist won the All-America award for his Lilibet, a pink floribunda.

Mr. Lindquist comes by his hybridizing talent naturally. His father, Ernest Lindquist, now retired but still living in Hemet, is famous for a lifetime of work with roses.

The elder Mr. Lindquist was the original partner of Charles W. Howard, founder of the company here. He received his early training as a nurseryman in Sweden and Finland.

Howard's of Hemet now has more than 300 different rose varieties. It is strictly a wholesale business but is believed to be the only exclusively wholesale rose growing organization to advertise nationally on the consumer level.

President of the Howard company today is Paul W. Howard, son of the founder. Closely associated with him are his brother, Charles S. Howard, and his sister, Louise. Also in the business now are two third-generation Howards, Charles and Richard, sons of Charles S. Howard.

Keith Monaghan, the company's sales manager, has been with the organization nearly 40 years. There are numerous other long-time employees.

Today the company's enterprises are not confined to the growing of roses. A subsidiary company is fast becoming one of Southern California's largest producers of ornamental plants and shrubs. Walnuts, grapefruit, potatoes, melon seed, grain and alfalfa are also produced on Howard company lands.

•

Fifty-two years ago a young man with two principal assets — a good wife and a good idea — stepped from a train at Hemet's little red depot, determined to seek his fortune here. His idea had to do with roses — red ones, pink ones, yellow ones, white ones — millions of them! It was a rather indefinite idea, but it grew — blossomed, one might say, even as the flowers of his vision were later to burst into the rich colorful bloom of reality.

His worldly wealth when he stepped from the train consisted of little more than the clothes on his back and a few silver dollars that jingled mournfully in his pocket.

He was, as you perhaps have guessed, Charles W. Howard, and the saga of his rise to fortune may well be an inspiration for any young man of this generation who has a good wife and a good idea.

Charlie Howard didn't claim all the credit for his vision of roses. It was the late Ethan Allen Chase of Riverside, for whom Ethanac (now Romoland) was named, who encouraged him to grow roses on a commercial scale, to give up a job in Riverside and get into business for himself. Mr. Chase had been a nurseryman in New York state and Howard valued his judgment.

Selecting Hemet as a promising place to make his start in the world, he leased a small tract of land immediately upon his arrival here and the first year planted a quarter of an acre. A grocer at Riverside agreed to extend him credit for a year, and once every three months Howard signed a note for his grocery bill. He was forced to do his grocery buying at Riverside because Hemet merchants had no confidence in his vision of roses and looked upon him as a poor credit risk.

People were openly skeptical about this young man's venture in roses. If he was determined to be a farmer why didn't he go in for something practical, like apricots or peaches or oranges or potatoes?

Once during that first year he was accosted on the street in San Jacinto by one of the natives.

"You ain't figgerin' on sellin' all them flowers, are ye?" the old timer demanded.

"Certainly," Howard replied. "As a matter of fact, most of them are sold."

"Well, I'll be gosh danged!" expostulated the native. "I never heard o' the like!"

Today that original quarter acre has grown to several hundred acres. The total revenue from that original quarter acre the first year was $1200. Today the Howard Rose company's labor bill alone amounts to over $100,000 a year, and as for annual revenue — well, the average man would get a headache just trying to comprehend that much money.

MOUNTAIN LUMBER — Hauling native lumber from the San Jacinto mountains, early 1900's.

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MODELING DANCE

Editor Had Many Loyal Helpers

Largest Special Edition in The Hemet News' History

Preparation of this 100-page "Down Memory Lane" magazine section of The Hemet News has been a special, and to a large extent individual, project of the editor of The News—but he couldn't have done it without the help of loyal assistants and contributors.

Many of the early days photos came to the editor's desk as the result of an appeal made in the paper earlier in the year.

Two artists who have contributed to the pages of this book deserve special recognition. One is Frank Mosher, editorial page cartoonist for The News the past six or seven years, and the other is John Fulton, one of the five or six top American painters and illustrators, who now makes his home in the Hemet Valley.

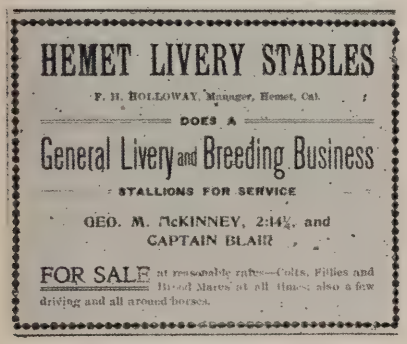
Mr. Mosher did the interesting "Down Memory Lane" cover, and Mr. Fulton contributed sketches and drawings of early days Hemet scenes and people. They are done in the Fulton style that is so well known in the field of American art.

More personal assistance has been given the editor by two secretaries, Mrs. Paul G. Carr and Mrs. George Healy, who have taken many hours of dictation, and by John H. McCloy, who did the pencil work in making the page layouts.

Invaluable assistance, as always, has been given by Mrs. Grant Overby in proofreading and research. Because of her residence here of more than 50 years and her knowledge of local history and local names and dates, it has been possible in this book to maintain a high degree of accuracy, and in some cases her corrections have no doubt saved the editor considerable embarrassment.

Acknowledgment must also be made of the help given by Clarence Swift, curator of the Ramona Bowl museum and member of a pioneer Hemet family. He has located for the editor many rare photographs and has been able to assist in identifying many others. He has recently become the owner of the entire plate library of the late Si White, Hemet's first commercial photographer. Many of the pictures on these pages are from that collection.

By taking over many of the editor's regular duties in recent weeks, Leonard Schwacofer, Jr., news editor, and other members of the news writing staff, have made it possible for him to devote most of his time to this, his pet project of 1960.—H. D. K.



1910 ADVERTISEMENT—Reproduction of Hemet Livery Stables' ad in The Hemet News in 1910.

Do You Remember:

When a backache was a backache and even the doctors hadn't yet heard of a slipped disc?

HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY, HEMET

We Have Enjoyed 25 of Them

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GEORGE E. LYELL, Mgr.

305 W. Florida Phone OL 8-3285 Hemet, Calif.

TRAIN TIME—Sketch by John Fulton, internationally known painter and illustrator now living in Hemet Valley, of people awaiting arrival of train from San Bernardino at the Santa Fe's old red depot near the corner of North Harvard street and Latham avenue. Mr. Fulton made this sketch from a 1910 photograph. Two-story structure shown behind depot was the triangular Ferguson building at Harvard and Front streets. Second floor was known as Ferguson hall. Sign reads "Ferguson Investment company."

We Are Happy to Congratulate the City of Hemet In its "Golden Anniversary Year"

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FLORIDA at HARVARD HEMET, CALIFORNIA

Pioneer Tripp Father Brought Three Sons Here in 1869

Of all the pioneer families in the Hemet-San Jacinto area, probably the largest and best-known are the Tripps. Today in these parts there are Tripps to your left, to your right, ahead of you and behind you, and nobody knows the exact number of descendants of the pioneer father, Samuel V. Tripp.

He crossed the plains from the Missouri border to California by the Overland Trail, and after a period in the northern gold fields came into the valley by way of Los Angeles and San Bernardino. He was the San Jacinto township justice of the peace who presided at the hearing of Sam Temple, murderer of the Indian Juan Diego (reborn as "Alessandro").

Of his three motherless boys whom he brought in with him, the one christened Shasta set down, in later years, his remembrance of the valley beginnings as he saw them. He wrote:

"Dear Granddaughters, Viola and Louise:

"You have asked me more than once to write something in reference to the early settlement of the San Jacinto Valley. I will now endeavor to write a brief story of the early times here.

"My father, two brothers and myself came here in the fall of 1869, settling in the east end of the valley, up where Mont Webster lived. The road at that time went past Relief (Gilman) Hot Springs and followed east along the foothills and through the Soboba reservation, then on east and crossed the San Jacinto river and up a steep bank, then on east to our dreary little home where us three boys were left alone to farm. My father and his partner, Col Hamner, took the first water ditch out and later in the summer planted corn and squash. There were no white people living east of Old Town. At San Jacinto there was a little store, kept by a Russian named Prokko Akimo. Just south of the store, about 300 yards, lived a family by the name of Jerome Benson.

"That is the place where the constable held a Mexican for the murder of an old man on the mesa, as we used to call it, identified by the old man's wife, who was trying to help her husband with some colts. The Mexican killed him with a hatchet. While the officer, Sam Sours, went out for a few minutes he left the prisoner in charge of the justice of the peace, John Kennedy. At this time the door was pressed open so that a masked mob came in and seized the Mexican, took him out and hung him.

"This hanging, as near as I can remember, was in 1879. Now, I will tell you something about how we came to the valley. Roads were almost impassable. We came up the Timoteo valley and crossed the range of hills north of here and down into what is now called Laborde canyon, out of the mouth of the same and on eastward to south of the present road.

"The first settlement we came to was Dixon ranch. He had a few cattle and horses. Next was Rable, who lived west of the hot springs and just a little past there lived a man named Owens. He had a few head of cattle. On up the river at the old Logsdon place lived a family named Mike Mulrany. The next was Salvador Estudillo, owning what is now Soboba Hot Springs. Next was Soboba Springs and the Soboba Indians. I told you how we went from here up to our present home. That was just 66 years ago today. In coming over the trail to Laborde canyon the road stood up about 50 degrees, and it was all two horses could do to pull the small wagon up and many others tried and failed to make it. The Indians with two-wheeled carts sawed off cottonwood trees, which they called "caretta," with two oxen, would go any place the oxen could walk. They never failed to get there with their load.

"One old Indian named Roces, who wore only a hickory shirt and a breech cloth and always walked with his hands behind him had two oxen that would follow him wherever he went.

"There lived at Soboba an Indian named Roces Toura, the father of Jesus Toura. Also there lived there old Silvestra and his brother Slopitan Salvidora, and Jose Pedro. Then there was an old woman, Numiseno, and her husband. She was always so kind to us boys and called us 'povres muchachos,' which was 'poor children'.

"I remember one day in the fall an old Indian lady about 75, who walked with a long stick in her hand to help her feeble steps, came by on her way to the mountains to find out for the tribe how the acorn crop was in Strawberry valley. This was her job. A night or two after we saw her campfire high up the mountain as a signal to her people. She stayed there all night and kept the fire burning. It seemed she should be afraid, for the mountains were full of bear and lions at that time. There was no road, only a horsetrail winding up the steep slope. However she got through safely and returned home with no hurt and a good report. That fall the Indians went up the mountains in great numbers and brought down many packhorse loads of acorns.

"Now, going down the south side of the valley was the Aguirre ranch. The next place was the Wakefield place, cattle and horses. It was John Wakefield who was killed by General Banton. This happened about the year 1877, as near as I can remember.

"Turkey Tyler lived down about where South Central avenue is now on the Webster ranch, owned at that time by "Old Sam Kennedy," the father of our Sam that lives here in San Jacinto.

"Francisco Pico, owning the Casa Loma ranch, lived at this time at Los Angeles, where he ran a meat market. The ranch was cared for by his brother, Chapo Pico.

"Now I believe I have mentioned all who lived here in San Jacinto except one other family by the name of Worthington. All were interested in cattle, sheep and horses, and the valley was open and free to them all. The Styce family lived here also and Andy Styce was supervisor for this end of San Diego county.

"There was no farming here, except what they called the wheat field out west of Little Lake. A number of the ranchers put in five acres all in the same field and took turns herding it both day and night as there were no fences. Sam Kennedy can tell you more about this than I can, as he took his turn at herding."

Do You Remember:

When the Packard Motor company gave Death Valley Scotty a 16-cylinder automobile with an 80-gallon gas tank? But Scotty kept his mules, just in case.

When, in your middle teens, you thought you were well along the road to manhood if you had mastered the art of rolling a Bull Durham cigarette?

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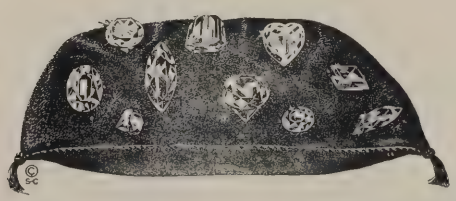
DIAMONDS ARE A GOOD INVESTMENT
SEE OUR SELECTION TODAY
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HEMET

MERRYMAN HOUSE—First hotel in the community of Florida (now Valle Vista). Photo was taken in 1890 and is from the Bessie Wilson collection.

VALLE VISTA ONCE CALLED 'FLORIDA'

Few people could tell more interestingly about the early history of this valley than the late Mrs. M. G. Stone who, with her husband, came here in 1886 and laid out near the foot of the mountains a townsite they called Florida. Today that section of the valley is known as Valle Vista.

The Stones and other hardy pioneers organized in that part of the valley the Fairview Land and Water company, which acquired title to 3000 acres, and immediately they began the arduous task of fashioning a permanent settlement.

Until about a dozen years ago there stood near the heart of Valle Vista a symbol of their pioneer lives. It was a two-story red brick building. Over its front entrance, in letters aged by many seasons, was the inscription, "The Magnolias."

And Mrs. Stone, who bestowed this name — who even watched the planting of the trees which inspired it — lived until about 15 years ago in the mellowed building. From its threshold, she had seen the birth and growth of Hemet, and the gradual spreading of inhabitants throughout the length and breadth of the valley.

For many years she operated The Magnolias as a hotel, offering board and lodging to countless distinguished people, but after the death of Mr. Stone in 1931, she had only an occasional guest.

She recalled clearly her earliest days in the valley. She remembered how water was piped from North Fork falls, and how all the border trees in the tract, including those which now line Florida avenue, were set out in a single day by an enormous crew of men. She remembered that the community's name was changed from Florida to Valle Vista because the postoffice department would not accept a name identical with that of a state.

She told of the early hardships — of the long rides by four-horse stage to Perris or San Gorgonio (Beaumont), where the nearest railroad depots were located, or of the weary trip on the railroad through Temecula to San Diego, then the county seat of all this territory.

She recalled an occasion, during her first year in the valley, when Mr. Stone took a group of men by stage to San Gorgonio, and because of floods was forced to walk all the way back in hip boots.

These hardships she recalled with a sort of wistfulness, as though they had taken a fond place in her memory. Upon them, she must have realized, was founded the whole stability of her courageous life and that of her husband.

One of her closest friends was Mrs. J. C. Jordan, Ramona's "Aunt Ri," the kindliest woman she ever saw; and she also knew Sam Temple (Jim Farrar), who one time startled her by riding down a San Jacinto street firing his pistols into the air.

FIRST TELEPHONES

There is perhaps only one man in Hemet who remembers the city's first telephone service, provided for fewer than 100 subscribers by the Home Telephone company which later became the Southwestern Home Telephone company and still later the California Water & Telephone company.

The original company did not provide telephone service around the clock. Telephones could be used only from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on week days and from 8 a.m. until noon on Sundays.

Today Guy Ankrum, an electrical contractor, holds a record — he has been a telephone subscriber here longer than any other person still living.

The earliest Hemet telephone directory still in existence is believed to be one issued in 1908, and Mr. Ankrum is one of the subscribers listed in it.

FIRST WOMAN VOTER

The first woman to vote in Hemet after the woman's suffrage amendment to the constitution was adopted was Mrs. Victoria Brooke, who still lives on West Latham avenue.

Since then she has missed voting at only one election.

Mrs. Brooke is the daughter of the late Charles W. Thomas, pioneer who once owned all the land around what is now known as Lake Hemet and for whom Thomas mountain is named.

Greetings...

On the 50th Anniversary of the City of Hemet

We wish to say thanks to the people of this wonderful valley for their fine support and patronage during the Fifteen Years it has been our pleasure to serve you personally . . . and be of service also in many civic programs and organizations.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE
REPRESENTED THE SAME FINE QUALITY LINES OF APPLIANCES
FOR THESE FIFTEEN YEARS

- FRIGIDAIRE
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Frank Fowler Remembers Way Back to 1884

They Decided Los Angeles Didn't Have Much Future

EDITOR'S NOTE—Few men are in a better position to write about the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley's early years than Frank H. Fowler, a printer on The Hemet News in the '90's and later a businessman and bank cashier in San Jacinto. He has owned and operated a large number of Southern California weekly newspapers but is now retired and living in Redlands. Elsewhere in this anniversary edition are his recollections of his early days on The Hemet News. In the following article he tells about the valley and its people before and after the turn of the century.

BY FRANK FOWLER

In the early spring of 1884 my father, Wm. P. Fowler, first visited what is now the San Jacinto valley. Late rains had carpeted the valley with grass knee high. From Box Springs grade to the foot of San Jacinto mountain was a sea of green, interspersed with fields of California poppies, wild violets, baby blue eyes, buttercups and other brilliant flowers, all blending in the bright sunshine of a California spring day to make of it a scene irresistible, overwhelming. Small wonder that he decided then and there that Los Angeles, a city of 30,000, would never be much larger and he would move to San Jacinto! I think he made a wise choice!

Like a dozen or more early settlers, we occupied the old school house while father was building a small house on land he bought on Central avenue. The "old school" was one of the landmarks of the early days. A year prior to our arrival it had given place as the seat of education to the first brick building erected in San Jacinto and was occupied in turn by the families of R. L. Wardrobe, Harry Bantz, Lucian Villinger and Sam Black, as I recall.

Those were the days of the wide open spaces, when from the head of Box Springs grade to San Jacinto, Casa Loma (the Pico ranch) was the only habitation on the wagon road, while in the distance to the south was the Lower Webster ranch and along North mountain to the north were the Rubidoux, McAllister and J. M. Logsdon holdings. San Jacinto then was about a mile east and south of its present location and the original site became known as "Hewitt Town" and "Old Town".

The winter of 1883-84 was the beginning of a decade of wet years that carpeted the entire valley with lush pasture for thousands of head of cattle, horses and sheep that roamed its broad, fenceless acres. What an intriguing picture was presented there to the home-seeker. The San Jacinto river, hugging North mountain, ran bank full late into the spring, filled San Jacinto lake, a body of water three miles in length and a mile wide, and on south through the hills to Lake Elsinore, waters from which in turn passed down Temescal canyon into the Santa Ana river and to the ocean. So, believe it or not, the San Jacinto river has had a part in filling the Pacific ocean!

From a point about opposite Soboba Indian reservation and extending along the river's course for some six miles was a dense forest of cottonwood and willow, with areas of wild grapes forming a tangled mass as the vines climbed high in the branches of the willows and cottonwoods in the swampy sections.

In the valley proper, as designated from the bench and the mesa, artesian water was available in abundance at a depth of from 100 to 200 feet, so that at small cost every landowner could have his own water system. As a matter of fact, many small artesian flows were obtained by driving a two-inch pipe, pointed and perforated at the end, into the ground, thus obtaining pure, cool supply for domestic use. Thus with thousands of unbroken, fertile acres, an abundant water supply ready to be tapped under every acre, wood to be had for the hauling, native pine and cedar lumber from sawmills in the San Jacinto mountains delivered at your building site at from $20 to $30 per thousand, rapid settlement was inevitable for the San Jacinto valley.

And foremost in this lumbering industry was Amaza Saunders, whose sawmill was located on Strawberry creek in Strawberry valley (now Idyllwild), just about where the present paved highway crosses that stream. The sawmill was first run by water power and for several years after water had been replaced by steam and the mill was moved to another location, the big wooded water wheel could be seen from the road. Lumber from the Saunders mill, as well as the Anton Scherman mill, was hauled down the mountain on the old toll grade which took up the mountainside at the Toll House (now known as Oak Cliff) and zig-zagged up 4500 feet in three miles. With huge brakeblocks on front and back of the rear wheels and a sapling pine fastened to the rear axle, teamsters brought their heavy loads down that grade posthaste. The only concern of the six-horse teams on the down grade was to keep ahead of the wagons!

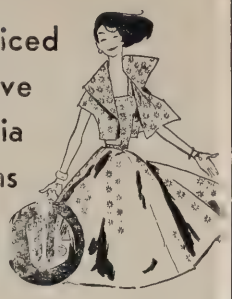
A lumberman, it was natural that Mr. Saunder's house would be among the very first built in San Jacinto, on Sheriff street, across from my father's. Both houses are still in good repair and occupied. Mr. Saunder's younger daughter, Mrs. Blanche Huntoon, is now a resident of Hemet.

At that time H. T. Hewitt was the merchant prince of this vast domain, with trade territory extending as far south as Temecula and Aguanga and east to the Santa Rosa Indian reservation. In the semi-darkness of his adobe store was carried everything in the way of groceries, harness, dry goods, wet goods, clothing, saddles, hardware, guns and ammunition; while the lumber yard in connection was stocked to fill every building requirement. At Hewitt's was everything for man or beast—if you could find it! Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Jordan were associated with Hewitt, the former handling the freighting business from San Bernardino and San Gorgonio (Beaumont to you gentle reader of this later day), while Mrs. Jordan (Aunt Ri of Ramona) managed the hotel end of the business.

There was great rivalry between "Old Town" or "Hewitt's Town" and the new town platted by the San Jacinto Land company. Single handed Hewitt made a

Continued on Page 52

Budget Priced Attractive California Fashions Since 1932



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TOWN MEETING PLACE—This was the late John L. Woolry's blacksmith shop on Latham avenue in 1915. Sketch was made especially for this magazine section of The Hemet News by John Fulton, famous painter and illustrator, who now lives here. Men in the sketch, left to right, are Charles Isle, Harry Park, Mr. Woolry and R. G. (Rufie) Swift, early days harness shop owner. Drawing is from an old photograph.

We Proudly Salute Hemet on its Fiftieth Anniversary

Serving the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley With

Complete Real Estate & Insurance Service

Members of our staff have owned and operated real estate in the valley for many years and are qualified to render you the finest service and counsel.

Our insurance organization has been serving the valley for well over a decade and is in position to give a greater service.

May we serve you?

Ready to serve you—From left to right: Gilbert Reno, Jr., Merle Eaton, Daryl H. Smith, Barbara Hull, Ed Machen, Richard Priest, Bud Nelson, Arthur Hamilton.

Daryl H. Smith & Associates

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"FIRST CITIZEN"—The late Dr. John B. Weston, former Hemet mayor and active community worker in Hemet for more than a quarter of a century. He gave the city a square block of land in the center of town to use as a municipal park and he lived to direct most of the development of it, including selection of trees planted there. Sketch by John Fulton from photograph.

THE DIAMOND VALLEY SEARL FAMILY

Seventy-five years ago a man named Thomas Reinhart brought his ailing wife and three children from Missouri to what is now California's Hemet-San Jacinto Valley. There was no railroad station in Hemet then—and for that matter, there wasn't any Hemet.

The three Reinhart children were Idella, Ella and Elgie. Idella was 11 years old and, until her death about 1957, had lived all the intervening years in this area.

Six years after coming here, Idella Reinhart became the bride of Oliver C. Searl and they set up housekeeping at Winchester.

Thus was started the valley's large and widely-known Searl family.

Their first child, Edgar, was born in Winchester when Mrs. Searl was 18. The family of three moved to Diamond valley when Edgar was a baby. The Searls were grain farmers then and are primarily grain farmers still.

Father Searl started with 65 acres in Diamond valley and added to his property consistently until he died. His sons continued buying and the family holdings now amount to close to 5000 acres and this figure is more than 9000 acres if leased land is included.

Diamond valley was given its name by P. A. Clark, who said that at one time there were diamond mines there. In earlier times the valley was called "Diamente."

The senior Searls had nine children. All are living and Mother Searl had 19 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren when she died.

The sons and daughters, in addition to Edgar, are Harry of Hemet, Garner of Patterson, Gerald of Diamond valley, Clyde, now in Southeast Asia; Floyd of Hemet; Ethel, now Mrs. C. R. McKusick of Big Bear; Evelyn, now Mrs. John Russell of Colton, and Edna, now Mrs. Louis Cramer of Fresno.

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Hemet

THE HEMET NEWS AWARDS—Above are 28 first place plaques and trophies awarded to The Hemet News in national and state Better Newspaper contests in recent years. The contests are conducted annually by the National Editorial association and the California Newspaper Publishers association. Scores of second and third place awards that have come to The News are not shown in the picture. This year The News won two first place plaques at the state convention of the California Newspaper Publishers association in February. One was the coveted "general-excellence" award and the other was for the best special edition (the Ramona Play issue of 1959). It was the fourth year in the last 10 that The News has won the "general excellence" competition. This year The News took first place for the "best special edition" and second place in the national "general excellence" contest, but previously this paper had twice won the national first place award in that category. Other first place awards taken by The News have been in the "best front page," "best editorial page," "best typography" and "best news coverage" classifications. The "general excellence" award is the sweepstakes prize in both the state and national contests.

HOTEL HEMET COST $15,000 IN 1893

Some years ago The Hemet News received an inquiry from John P. Harrington, senior ethnologist in the bureau of American ethnology of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

He wanted to know the origin of the name "Hemet," whether the town of Hemet was founded before construction of the Hemet reservoir was started, the name of the flour mill which once was an industry here, and whether the Alessandro hotel was formerly the Mayberry hotel.

Well, the building of the Hemet dam which created the Hemet reservoir (Lake Hemet) and the starting of the town of Hemet were practically simultaneous. The year was 1891 and the dam was completed in 1894.

The Alessandro hotel, which was razed about five years ago, was on the site of the Mayberry hotel (later known as Hotel Hemet) which burned in 1917.

The Mayberry hotel, built in 1893-94, was of red brick construction, three stories in height and contained 24 rooms in addition to the lobby, dining room, kitchen, billiard room and reading room.

When it was finished The Hemet News reported that it had cost "the stupendous sum of $15,000." It was named for E. L. Mayberry, general manager for W. F. Whittier, developer of the Hemet Valley and builder of the Hemet dam. The hotel bore the Mayberry name for only a brief time.

Concerning the flour mill, in which the Smithsonian Institution was interested, it was built and operated by John McCool and was known as the "San Jacinto Valley Flouring Mills." Mr. McCool's flour mill was a two story brick building which he erected near what is now the corner of North Harvard street and Latham avenue. The city's first electric light plant was in the same building. It went down in the 1918 earthquake.

Various explanations of the origin of the name "Hemet" are contained in another article in this magazine section of The News.

BIG 1910 EVENT

One of the principal community events here 50 years ago was the cornerstone laying of the new Hemet high school building June 13, 1910. E. T. Boughn, high school principal, presided. C. E. Carson was president of the school board and W. E. Kimmell was clerk. Others participating in the exercises were the Rev. William Pearce, Judge H. H. Craig of Riverside, Frank H. Holloway, president of the city board of trustees, the Rev. Alfred L. Walters, rector of the Episcopal church; Loyd Wright, president of the high school student body; Mrs. H. S. Dukes, president of the Hemet Woman's club; Peter Milliken, editor of The Hemet News; Frank Stetson, noble grand of the Odd Fellows lodge; T. B. Foster, representing the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Rev. J. W. Mount. School trustees present in addition to Mr. Carson and Mr. Kimmell were Thomas Rawson, Daniel Myers, Charles Bowlden, G. H. Johnson, Carl Loitz and L. C. Eaton.

Loyd Wright, the student body president, later became one of the most prominent lawyers in California. He has been president of the California Bar association, president of the American Bar association and president of the International Bar association.

A MAN FROM KANSAS

One of the best known early settlers of the Anza-Aguanga district in the mountains south of Hemet was Fred Clark who died in 1945. His passing marked the end of a colorful era in the history of the part of Riverside county in which he lived.

Born in Indiana, Mr. Clark came to Anza from Kansas 73 years ago. The adobe house in which he first lived still remains intact on the cattle ranch he owned for more than half a century.

As a pioneer settler, Mr. Clark contributed much of the data for the Bolton history of the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition from Mexico to San Francisco which passed across the land he later owned.

Thirty years ago the Native Sons of the Golden West erected a monument on the Clark homesite to mark the route of the de Anza trail.

Do You Remember:

When barnstorming aviators in the early days of flying machines would drop handbills or other advertising leaflets when they flew over Hemet?

BEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF HEMET!

It's Been Our Pleasure To Serve You Since 1932

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The SIGN of QUALITY For Over 50 Years

SERVING THE VALLEY FOR 33 YEARS

NELSON MACHINERY CO. HEMET, CALIF.

"Your International Harvester Dealer"

Seven Supervisors For Fifth District

Representing the fifth district of Riverside county on the board of supervisors since the county was created in 1893 have been only seven men — F. L. Loveland (appointed to serve until the first election in 1894), John Shaver of San Jacinto, R. S. Smith of San Jacinto, Edward C. Talbot of Perris, Floyd E. Gilmore of Hemet, Sherman E. Lewis of San Jacinto, and Fred McCall of Perris and Hemet.

When Riverside county was organized in 1893 — having been divorced from San Diego county — a board of supervisors was chosen to serve until the first general election, in 1894. In that election Mr. Shaver was chosen supervisor, defeating F. L. Loveland, the incumbent, and A. N. Mead, who owned and lived on what was later known as the Stewart ranch in Fruitvale.

In 1898, Mr. Shaver was again elected, defeating Julius A. Brown, who owned the Big Springs ranch, south of Hemet. In 1902 Mr. Shaver defeated A. Domenigoni, who lived south of Winchester, and in 1906 Mr. Shaver defeated the late O. C. Tripp. Four years later, in 1910, Mr. Shaver defeated J. F. Davidson, who lived in the Little Lake district. In 1914 Mr. Shaver defeated Alex Blair of Fruitvale. Four years later Mr. Shaver suffered one of the two defeats of his political career, losing to R. S. Smith of San Jacinto. In 1922, however, Mr. Shaver made a comeback and defeated Mr. Smith, the incumbent, and H. G. Cooper of Hemet. In 1926 he defeated E. T. Tanner of San Jacinto, and in 1930 he defeated Martin Laursen of Hemet. In 1934 he was defeated by the late Edward C. Talbot of Perris. A short time later Mr. Shaver died.

Mr. Shaver, a pioneer San Jacinto business man, held office as a member of the board of supervisors for 40 years. Supervisor Talbot was reelected once and died during his second term. Floyd E. Gilmore was appointed to succeed him and was twice elected and, in 1950, was defeated by Sherman E. Lewis of San Jacinto, incumbent.

Mr. Lewis was defeated in 1954 by Fred McCall, who is now serving his second term.

They Started Ball Rolling

Because this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Hemet, the following item from The Hemet News in 1909 has a historical flavor:

"The call for a mass meeting to consider incorporation was signed by Peter Milliken, V. E. Peterson, E. M. Jacques, J. R. Bell, W. C. Goodhue, J. H. Spencer, John M. Clayton, C. M. Dietterich, J. H. Scales, T. S. Brown, W. B. Tripp, W. H. Mann, I. B. Gibbel, A. Anderson, C. O. Schmidt, H. P. Shaw, P. S. Ellard, W. C. Rayen and W. L. Taylor."

Unless the editor of The News is mistaken, the only signers of the incorporation petition still living are J. H. Spencer, retired Hemet fire chief and A. Anderson, who was manager of the old W. B. Broadwell store. Mr. Anderson is now in the retail mercantile business in Pasadena.

Seventeen Men Have Headed Hemet's City Government

Did you know that Aleck E. Brudin was the first mayor of Hemet?

Well, when you come right down to it, it's a fact even though he wasn't elected until 1928.

The explanation is this: Until 1928 the city board of trustees reorganized following each municipal election and elected a chairman who was known as president of the board.

But about 1927 the state law apparently was amended and the title of the chairman of the board was changed from "president" to "mayor."

In the 50 years since the incorporation of the city, Hemet has had 17 men with the title of either president or mayor.

In the order of their election, these men have been:

T. S. Brown, Frank H. Holloway, John M. Frazier, William Bruce, Hugh P. Shaw, B. W. Van Winkle, John B. Weston, John W. Isle, W. H. Mann, Sidney C. Moon, Aleck E. Brudin, Jay C. Loomis, Robert G. Record, Harry O. Searl, Owen W. Gibbel, Burr Van Housen and James Simpson.

In its 50-year history as an incorporated city, Hemet has had five city clerks.

C. G. Hamilton, elected in 1910, was the first. His successors have been J. Alfred Jacques, appointed in 1911; C. M. Dietterich, elected in 1912; Ben C. Moulden, appointed in 1931, and Mary E. Henley, appointed in 1951.

Five city treasurers have served the city. The first was J. H. Scales, cashier of the old Bank of Hemet, who was elected in 1910 but served only a few months.

Succeeding him were W. L. Taylor, appointed in late 1910; H. C. Wilson, elected in 1914; Thomas J. Fletcher, appointed in 1924, and W. N. Parkhurst, incumbent, appointed in 1935.

SHE NAMED IT IDYLLWILD

Selection of the name Idyllwild for the mountain resort district in the San Jacinto mountains was made by the late Mrs. Laura Rutledge, who died in Los Angeles in 1937. In 1899, Mrs. Rutledge and her husband managed a sanitarium located on the present site of Idyllwild Inn and it was when the federal government decided to locate a postoffice there that Mrs. Rutledge suggested the name Idyllwild for the community.

From 1903 to 1906, Mr. Rutledge managed the old Hotel Hemet for the late W. F. Whittier and in 1910 they returned to the San Jacinto mountains to manage the Idyllwild Inn for a period of years.

THE WRIGHT FAMILY

In a letter to the editor of The Hemet News some years ago, Dr. Clifford A. Wright, distinguished Los Angeles physician, said: "My father and mother took their three elder children, Arthur, Gertrude and me, to San Jacinto in 1890. Loyd was born there two years later. We all have homesick spells for that beautiful country. The evening glow of the sunset on Mt. San Jacinto cannot easily be forgotten. It was one of the sights most appreciated by my mother."

OSTEOPATH 55 YEARS

Long to be remembered in Hemet and the valley is the late Dr. Benjamin Raymond Sprague who died within the last year after 55 years as an osteopathic physician here.

Prior to taking up the profession of osteopathy, he was employed by the Santa Fe railway and in 1904 was station agent in Hemet. He was one of the founders of the Hemet Masonic lodge in 1925 and served three terms as master.

WINCHESTER PIONEER

One of the best-known pioneer women of the Hemet-San Jacinto-Winchester section of Riverside county is Mrs. Clark McEuen, now living in Hemet. She is the former Agnes Lindenberger. Her father was one of the developers of the Winchester area.

She and Mr. McEuen, now deceased, were classmates in the Winchester school.

Mrs. McEuen was the first president of the Winchester Woman's club. She also has served as president of the Hemet Woman's club and the Riverside County Federation of Woman's Clubs.

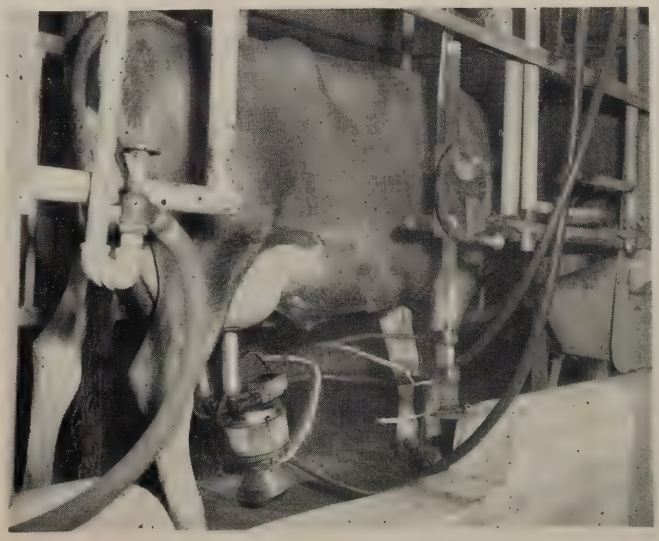
CHAPPIE'S

SALUTES . . .

THE CITY OF HEMET
ON ITS
50th YEAR OF PROGRESS

RAE & CHAPPIE CREECH

229 E. FLORIDA HEMET



Fifty years ago a milking parlor and its pipe-line milking were unknown. Today La Bonita Dairy Farm provides the only one in the San Jacinto Hemet-Valley.

PIPE-LINE MILKING
(Direct From Cow to Cooling Tank)
MEANS:
GREATER SANITATION

AN ALL-JERSEY REGISTERED HERD OF COWS MEANS:
★ *MORE NUTRITIOUS and MORE ECONOMICAL MILK.*

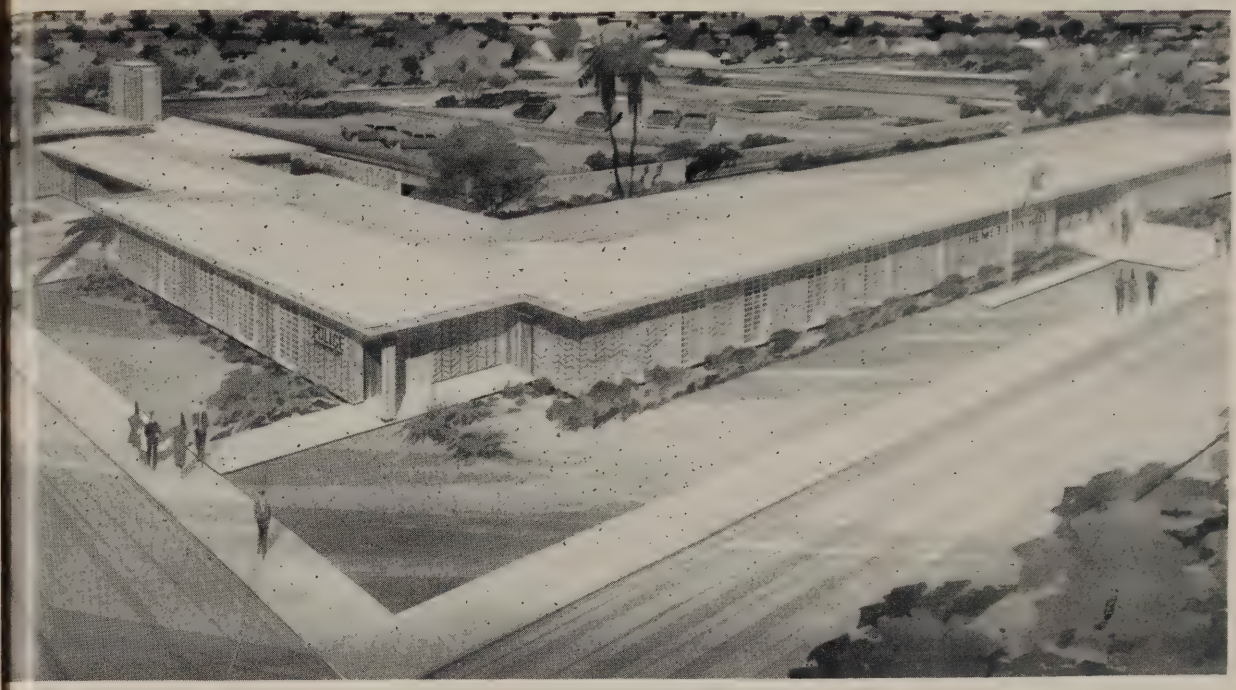
La Bonita
JERSEY FARM
CASH and CARRY or HOME DELIVERY

SAN JACINTO ST., BETWEEN HEMET & SAN JACINTO
PHONE OL 8-5189

Welcome...
on our
Fiftieth Anniversary
1910 - 1960

We cordially invite you to view our Anniversary Parade and attend the New Civic Center Dedication on Saturday, September 17, 1960.

Florida Avenue Looking East to the San Jacinto Mountain Area



Our New $300,000.00 Civic Center

Which will house all city departments and have a large off-street parking area.

East Latham Avenue between Juanita and Buena Vista Streets

Hemet maintains its own municipal water system which assures the community of fine water in an ample supply at all times. Wells and storage facilities with new large water mains to serve every area. A supplementary water supply if needed is also available from the Eastern Municipal Water District.

Every public utility is available through companies which are keyed and ready to serve this rapidly expanding area.

Ample free off-street parking is maintained by the city for shopper convenience.

The finest of sanitation equipment and facilities are maintained for the citizens of the community.

Modern highways, rail service, busses and airport facilities unsurpassed are here for the convenience of all.

Hemet is strategically located in one of California's most beautiful inland valleys. In a matter of minutes you can reach the beach, the mountains or the desert.

Situated in a most highly diversified agricultural valley, the economic condition of Hemet is very favorable and sound. Modern packing plants process most of the products grown in the area.

The finest school facilities, which are now being greatly expanded, provide the best in educational opportunity. Leading civic clubs and organizations take an active part in community life and progress. Churches of every denomination play an important role in the valley.

A mild climate the year around makes Hemet inviting for those seeking homes and contentment. Its climate makes it ideal for those seeking relief from many chronic ailments.

Famed health resorts are found nearby and fine tourist accommodations await your visit.

City of Hemet

"A Friendly City in Which to Live and Enjoy Living"

90 Miles Southeast of Los Angeles - - - 80 Miles North of San Diego

Fowler Describes Valley As He Found It 76 Years Ago

Continued from Page 44

game fight, spending large sums of money on the two-story Palma hotel, a large two-story store building called the Emporium, a school house and many dwellings—all well-constructed brick buildings—and it looked for a time that he would win. Even after the postoffice had been moved to the new town and it became officially "San Jacinto", Hewitt retained the greater part of the business of the valley and the surrounding mountains. I shall always remember the rambling old adobe storeroom, for it was there I purchased my first suit with long pants!

It was in front of that store that a pistol shot, asserted-ly fired by Hewitt, caused the death of one of the Nicoche boys, a young man employed in the store. Hewitt was arrested and taken to San Diego, the county seat. His trial was a long-drawn-out costly affair, and when he was finally acquitted, most of his fortune had been ex-pended. The store was purchased by J. A. Brown who operated it for several years, and who later purchased the Big Springs ranch, south of Hemet, from Hancock Johnson.

In the new town the first storekeeper was L. Durrett, who put up a brick building at the corner of Main and San Jacinto, which stood until shaken down by the earthquake of 1899; it was again wrecked in the quake of 1918. Besides handling groceries and overalls, Durrett did a thriving business in real estate, and memories of my boyhood are his many signs decorating lots and acreages announcing to the world "This Property for "Sail" See L. Durrett." No doubt those messages had much to do in relieving public tension at one particularly high-water period when that message was carried above the flood-waters of the rampaging San Jacinto river!

•

A second and two-story brick business building was soon erected across the street from the present Soboba theater, and here it was that the first school was housed, occupying the east half of the lower floor, the west half being used by the town's second grocery, owned by Stephens & Epinet. This school took over the functions of the old slab building west of town which was doing duty as a shelter for newcomers to the land of promise. Among the 15 or 20 schoolmates there, were my brother, Will Fowler, Charlie Kerr, Myrtle Wardrobe, Miguel Estudillo, Art Webster, Ada Strong, Fitchie Foote, Jim Logsdon, Maud and Blanche McCormick. At the end of the first school year the wonderful, new two-story, two-room brick schoolhouse was being rushed to com-pletion on San Jacinto street, at the site now used as a public campground. Edward Hyatt arrived from Ohio during the summer vacation and took charge as school principal at the opening of the school year, a position he held until elected county superintendent of schools, some four years after the formation of Riverside county. Hyatt became state superintendent of public instruction, a posi-tion he held until his death.

In 1884 the country was strictly "wide open." I am sure there was not a fence between the head of Box Springs canyon and San Jacinto, and it was a hard day's drive between the two points, travelers usually stopping at "Point of Rocks," east of the present town of Moreno, to feed and rest their teams. The majority of the early homeseekers came to the valley on the Southern Pacific to San Gorgonio and by stage over the old Lamb canyon road. Freighting was also from San Gorgonio and as the town grew this freighting was one of the principal busi-ness activities of the community. Soon the Santa Fe extended its line from Riverside to San Diego via Temecula canyon and the little settlement of Pinecarte (you know the black stink bug or beetle) changed its name to the less suggestive one of Perris. Then passenger and freight business for the valley was divided between the Santa Fe via Perris and the Southern Pacific via San Gorgonio, with stages and freight wagons from San Jacinto making daily rail connections to both points. Although Perris was the longer haul there was no moun-tain grade and it became the freight line, while San Gorgonio retained the mail and passenger business, and holdups on that tortuous, brush-bound mountain grade were not unknown.

Residents of the valley, as I remember them, when we "tenderfeet" began arriving, were the families of Jose Estudillo, just east of present Soboba Hot Springs; J. M. Logsdon, at the foot of North mountain due north of San Jacinto, Francisco Estudillo and J. E. Kennedy, whose homes were in the grove of cottonwoods that then grew at the foot of the mesa south of the new townsite; Procco Akimo, who had a small grocery store between Old Town and the new townsite and tanned deer, wildcat, skunk, mountain squirrel and mountain lion skins as they were brought in; Francisco Pico in Casa Loma on the Pico land grant; Louie Aguilar, the Websters, with ranches at the mouth of San Jacinto river canyon and on the west side of the valley north of the Pico grant; Miguel Aguirre, south of the townsite: and the Rubidoux and McAllister families north of the river near the old Branch hot springs.

•

The San Jacinto valley, caught as was all Southern California by the boom years following 1884, experienced rapid settlement. Soon a branch railroad was built from Perris to—? Yes, that was the question almost up to the grading of the last mile of roadbed. Would the terminal be new San Jacinto or Old Town? The new community won and from then on San Jacinto was definitely estab-lished. At that time, of course, Hemet did not exist.

Continued on Page 56

old fashioned
BARGAINS
IN BRAND NEW FASHIONS AT

Dixie's
APPAREL SHOPPE
217 E. Florida Hemet OL 8-2494

1953 "CONGRATULATIONS, HEMET" 1960
From: DAMON F. PAULEY, *"The Rambler Man"*
The First and the Finest of the Compact Cars
Take a demonstration ride today — Discover big car roominess — small car economy.
Rambler — Ambassador — Rebel — American — Metropolitan

THE NEW HOME OF DAMON F. PAULEY

ALWAYS A WIDE CHOICE OF SELECT USED CARS

Our Service Department Staffed with Fac-tory Trained Mechanics—Automatic Trans-mission Specialists—Genuine Factory Parts

DAMON F. PAULEY
590 N. San Jacinto HEMET, CALIF. OL 8-5138

Our Warmest Regards to You, Hemet, on Your
50th ANNIVERSARY
HUBB Stationery STORE
413 E. Florida Hemet

WE ARE PLEASED . . .

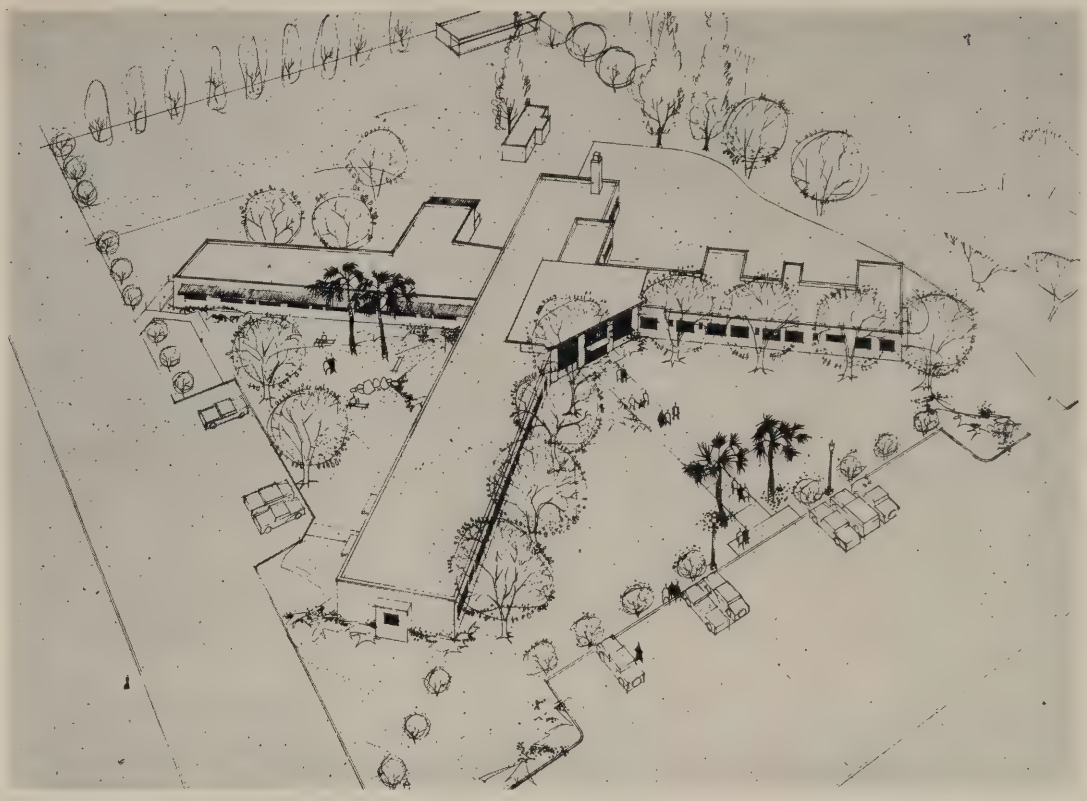
and, wish to extend our warmest regards to you, Hemet, on your Golden Anniversary.

We are very proud to have been an integral part in your wholesome growth for 43 years.

Churchill Transportation will continue to serve you with integrity and the convenient service, upon which our company is founded. Again, our congratulations on your 50th Birthday.

Sincerely,
CHURCHILL TRANSPORTATION

United Van Lines
MOVING WITH CARE EVERYWHERE®



(Located on East Latham Near San Jacinto Street)

Your Community Hospital

DESIGNED --- EQUIPPED --- STAFFED

TO SERVE THE VALLEY IN THE FINEST WAY POSSIBLE

You Are Invited to Inspect Your Hospital at Any Time

Beautifully planned, spacious private rooms, double rooms and wards . . . the finest surgical equipment . . . an obstetric unit that is beyond compare . . . wide, quiet hallways . . . waiting room . . . comfort for visitors . . . furnishings, the culinary department go together to make this one of the finest and most modern to be found in the Southland.

With the addition completed in August, 1957 it brings the capacity of the hospital to 56 beds in three wings. Many new features of, Electric Hi-Low beds, piped-in oxygen, complete air conditioning have been added for comfort of patients and visitors. The hospital board recently purchased adjoining property for further expansion.

A New $65,000 Surgical Unit and Laboratory Has Just Been Completed
VISITING HOURS: 2:30 to 3:30 P.M. — 7 to 8 P.M.
Patients and Visitors Are Assisted by the Hemet Hospital Auxiliary

HEMET VALLEY HOSPITAL

A Non-Profit, Competently Operated Institution

Under Supervision of Your Hemet Valley Hospital District Board of Directors and Staff

RIVERSIDE COUNTY IN THE BEGINNING

Riverside county was formed in 1893. An official publication of that vear was called "History and Directory of Riverside County of 1893-1894." Information in the directory included the following:

"The new county has an area of 7031 square miles. Five thousand two hundred ninety-two square miles of this territory are desert lands and barren mountains. These undesirable parts of the county are mostly in the southern and eastern portions.

"Our handsome maps show clearly every part of the county except the eastern, and as this is nearly all desert we have not included it, as it would make the map a bad shape for handling."

•

Riverside county was formed from parts of San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

The Riverside area wanted to secede from San Bernardino county because of "unjust discrimination against her taxpayers in the assessment of 1892" and ill-feeling between Riverside and San Bernardino was so strong that "there were absolutely no fellowship between them, and union, either political or social, was impossible."

The explanation goes on:

"In the northern third of San Diego county the people also greatly desired a separation from their county seat, but for very different reasons. The distance to their county seat, and the long roundabout route to be traveled to get there, was a burden hard to be borne. From many parts of the county it required three days' time and the traveling of several hundred miles to reach San Diego and transact a few hours' business and make the return trip."

San Jacinto is described as the second city in size and importance in the county. The directory devoted five pages to it.

Hemet didn't fare so well: "As yet the town has not attained very much of a size . . . . the town has a bright future before it." Hemet rated only a single paragraph, plus the names of two business firms.

•

When it came to a vote for county seat, Riverside received support from 2140 residents of the county, but Menifee got 459 votes. Menifee siding now is but merely a dot on the railroad between Perris and Hemet on most county maps.

San Ignacio (Sage in the mountains south of Hemet), was exactly as big as Hemet, if the names in the directory were any indication.

Leon, an almost forgotten community south of Menifee, was 50 per cent larger than Hemet or San Ignacio. El Casco, mid-way between Beaumont and Colton on the Southern Pacific railroad, equaled Leon.

Diamente, south of Hemet, was only half as large as Leon but it equaled Palm Springs. Indio was slightly larger.

Rincon, where Prado dam now is, near Corona, and Florida, where Valle Vista is, east of Hemet, and Alessandro, where March Air Force base is, all were more than double the size of Indio.

Remember Jack Hopkins?

One of the most familiar figures in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley and surrounding mountain country until his death in 1944 was Jack Hopkins, who had lived here 60 years. He was born near Julian, San Diego county, in 1871. For many years he owned and operated meat markets in San Jacinto and Hemet.

Jack Hopkins perhaps is best remembered for his love of children, although he had none of his own. For many years while in business in Hemet, he gave an annual free Christmas party for the kiddies of the valley at the motion picture theater.

In his later years he delighted in the unique decoration and lighting of his house and grounds during the Christmas holiday season. A life-sized Santa Claus was shown starting down the chimney on the snow-covered roof and mechanical reindeer pranced in front of the house. The entire picture was brilliantly illuminated and a phonograph at a window played Christmas carols throughout the afternoons and early evenings.

From distant points parents brought their children to view the scene with awe-struck amazement.

THE FREEZE OF 1913

There appear to be differences of opinion (or memory) regarding how cold it was here in the freeze of 1913.

The Hemet News in its issue immediately following that unusual climatic event reported that the lowest thermometer reading in the citrus district of the valley was 15 degrees above zero.

But there was a freeze of more recent memory. It was in January, 1937, and the lowest citrus grove reading reported to The News was 16.5 above zero.

Outside the citrus section, however, the minimum valley temperatures in 1913 and 1937 appear to have been the same — a low of 6 degrees above zero being recorded on both occasions, according to The Hemet News files.

OLDEST SUBSCRIBERS

Because old records are not complete, there is some uncertainty about who is the oldest subscriber to The News.

Charles M. Smyth, Crest drive citrus grower and pioneer rancher who came here from England, is undoubtedly one of the oldest continuous subscribers. His name has been on the subscription list exactly 57 years. He subscribed the week of his arrival here from England.

The Misses May and Annie Botterell, who came here from England with their parents before the turn of the century, believe The Hemet News has been coming to their house since 1895, when their father subscribed.

ADVERTISING STAFF

All advertising in this special magazine section was prepared and sold by the regular Hemet News staff which includes James W. Gill, Jr., business manager; Homer L. Truehlood, advertising manager, and staff members Kenneth W. Yarnall and Robert F. McLain.

LOOKING for the BEST

For Your PRIDE & JOY!

HARVEY GIBBEL SERVICE & GARAGE

17 YEARS SAME LOCATION
501 E. Florida Hemet

Berry Reynolds

DODGE - DODGE DART - DODGE TRUCKS

DODGE'S ALL NEW COMPACT CAR

LANCER

RENAULT—

4 CV SEDAN

DAUPHINE

CARAVELLE

TRUCKS

FOR YOUR PROTECTION - - - 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A DODGE DEALER

408 W. FLORIDA HEMET OL 8-5178

BEST WISHES . . .

TO THE PEOPLE OF HEMET ON THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THIS FINE CITY

WE'RE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THIS PROGRESSIVE AREA

STATER BROS

HEMET

First Press Run by Water Power

FOWLER REMEMBERS PAPER'S EARLY DAYS

Frank H. Fowler, the writer of the following article about the first years of The Hemet News, is now retired and living at Redlands, but for a half century he was a country newspaper publisher in Southern California. He has owned or been associated with nearly a dozen different weeklies. His mother was Mary Sheriff Fowler, first teacher in the old Indian school at the Soboba reservation.

By FRANK H. FOWLER

It was in June of 1896; I was returning to my home in San Jacinto from Chaffey college, then connected with the University of Southern California, when who should board the train at Riverside but Joe P. Kerr, my brother-in-law and publisher of The Hemet News. That was a fateful ride for me! Asked what I planned to do for the summer, I told Joe I would probably help my father or get a job from some dry rancher. But before Joe got off the train at Hemet he had sold me on the idea of working for him on The News for the summer, and by the time the train had turned on the Y and backed into San Jacinto I had become a full-fledged newspaper man, in my mind's eye!

Although The Hemet News was but a youngster of three years when I joined up as printer's devil, Joe's wit and wisdom had made it widely known in the newspaper field of the state, where he was recognized as one of the bright lights of California journalism.

The back shop force consisted of Sally Kerr, Joe's sister, and an expert and exceptionally fast compositor. Sally Kerr became the wife of the late William Moore who became a prominent insurance executive of Los Angeles. The Moores moved back to Hemet in 1955 and built a beautiful home on North Dartmouth street. Mr. Moore died there in 1959.

Charles Sherburn, young man from Kansas and all around printer, was especially proficient in making cuts from patent leather, mounting same on wooden base cut to size from dressed pine boards from Boalich's lumber yard. The Fourth of July edition for 1896 carried the Stars and Stripes covering the entire front page, the work of Sherburn with his patent leather cuts. It required two runs for the cut, besides the regular press run but it was well worth the extra work, for it was the pride and joy of the print shop.

And even W. F. Whittier and Col. E. Mayberry had their driver pull his team to a stop while they came in to compliment Joe on the job and order 50 extra copies of The News. Another piece of Sherburn's artistry was a large poster of the Hemet opera house, for the opening night. The "opera house" was on the second floor of the Whittier block, above the present location of The News. That building was one of the few in Hemet not damaged beyond repair in the earthquake of Christmas morning of 1899.

■

The home of The News was then in a frame building on Florida avenue near the present Bigelow furniture store. It was a long frame structure, with the typical "store front" of those days and with windows on the east, south and west, through which the dust from a hundred mule-teams poured during summer months.

The printing plant was purchased from Horace McPhee and hauled over from Elsinore. It consisted of a Cincinnati cylinder newspaper press on which could be printed two 6-column pages, a 10x12 Golding job press, some job and display type and eight full cases of body type, for every word that went into the paper had to be picked out of the cases, letter by letter, and when the paper was printed each letter had to be distributed in its proper place in the cases for the next issue.

The newspaper press was theoretically run by a water wheel, fashioned from a mowing machine wheel on which were wired grain cups from a threshing machine separator. On those rare occasions when there was no irrigating head in use on the Florida avenue water main, the water power performed perfectly. When water pressure was low we turned to "Injun" power from Soboba reservation; when neither was available the printer's devil turned the crank.

The Golding job press was motored by leg power, and many a 10-hour day I put in kicking that old jobber.

Perhaps some readers of The News still have copies of The Riverside County Cook Book. It had oil cloth cover binding and two of the advertising pages were of brightly colored wall paper carrying the advertisement of a Riverside furniture store. Well, that cook book was the pride of my fledgling days in the field of printing, and may have established the reputation for good printing that has been maintained by The Hemet News through all these years!

"Besides ramrodding The News, Joe Kerr, as "Uncle Poverty," wrote The Weekly Purifier, a three-column four-page sheet with a subscription rate of $5 a year or 25 cents per copy, and "no advertising accepted." While small of size, it's editorial shafts were terrific—but carried no venom. Of his good friends, H. K. Smith and A. G. Munn, both of whom wanted to be postmaster at San Jacinto, he wrote that he was absolutely neutral in the matter; he knew both candidates well and would be satisfied with either, "for Hank Smith couldn't read my postal cards if he would, and as for Col. Munn, he wouldn't read 'em if he could."

■

At that time there were papers published at Alessandro (now March Air Force base) and at Moreno. Of the former, Uncle Poverty commented: "The publication of the Alessandro Review spoiled a mighty good farm hand," while of the Moreno Reflex he wrote, "The editorial matter has the redeeming feature of brevity, but even that is lost sight of in the paper's general appearance as of having been printed with an asphaltum roller and Chinatown mud. I think Mr. McMahill will find more congenial as well as more remunerative employment in other fields—the hay field, for instance."

Reporting a lecture by David Starr Jordan, first president of Stanford university, at the Loring opera house in Riverside, Joe wrote, "The fact that Mark Plaisted (Plaisted was publisher of the Riverside Daily Enterprise then) left the room quickly when the doctor was endeavoring to locate the missing link is not thought to have any significance."

In those days Populists were popping in Riverside county and Uncle Poverty's jibes at that political group were many and pointed. For instance: "Rain makes corn—corn makes whisky and whisky makes Democrats," is an old adage, which I hereby amend to read, "Rain makes peanuts, peanuts make Populists and Populists draw flies." Again, "You can't expect a Populist to patronize the Keely cure as long as it works on a gold basis."

Joe Kerr didn't think much of Col. E. L. Mayberry, general manager of the Hemet Land and Water company, and we printers at the cases were made to understand that his name must always be set in nonpariel (the smallest type in the shop) when it appeared in copy, and that naturally would be several times in each issue. But even at that the two men seemed to get along affably in business matters.

In the fall of 1896 Joe Kerr's health failed and it was agreed by all that I stay on with The News. My brother-in-law's health continued to fail and in the late spring of 1897 he passed on, leaving my sister and their year-old son, Paul. That was when I got printer's ink in my hair and began to experience the vicissitudes, the trials, the tribulations—and the joys, for you know it has them too—of publishing a country weekly newspaper!

■

There were no paved streets and no sprinkling wagons and all this construction and team work made this young

Continued on Page 58

THE SAME LOCATION SINCE 1926

Thirty-Four Years
OF
Dignified Service

Serving the Valley for two generations with the utmost in sympathetic care.

Harford Funeral Home

TELEPHONE OLive 8-3288

●

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

120 North Buena Vista Street
Hemet, Calif.

295 West Main Street
San Jacinto, Calif.

Harford Funeral Home—North Buena Vista street

Authority on Valley History Has Vivid Memories

Continued from Page 52

In fact the first activity of the Hemet company was at a site between Old Town and Park Hill, where an office was built and large barns for work stock. The barns were destroyed by fire.

Soon after the advent of the railroad Hewitt built the brick warehouse at the bend where the road turned north to San Jacinto, to care for the grain harvests from Diamond valley, Domenigoni valley and west as far as Winchester station. That warehouse stood through both major earthquakes and was razed but two or three years ago. Part of the bricks from it are now used in buildings on the Joe Colton fruit ranch south of Hemet.

In quick order came the purchase of thousands of acres from the Estudillo holdings of brush-covered mesa land, later to become the Hemet tract, by W. F. Whittier, millionaire paint manufacturer, railroad magnate and business man from San Francisco. The Hemet Land and Water compny revised its original plans for a townsite where its brick offices, barns and warehouses were built, as before stated, and immediately began activities at the townsite of Hemet, by the erection of the Mayberry hotel, the Hemet opera house and offices of the company —and the town of Hemet was born.

With Col. E. L. Mayberry as general manager, backed by the Whittier millions, hundreds of mules and a blacksnake in every skinner's hands, things happened rapidly. "Those collars will fit other mules," was said to be Mayberry's favorite exclamation as he urged faster and faster progress. Whittier-financed, thousands of acres were cleared and farmed to grain, the Hemet dam became a reality, an electric system furnished lights for the magnificent Mayberry hotel and the company offices, as well as a favored few within a block of the plant at the rear of the hotel and run by water power. Then it was that the McCool flour mill was established and its products marketed throughout the Southland. The whole Hemet tract was platted, miles of streets graded throughout the tract and the welcoming sign was out for every homeseeker.

Around the upper border of San Jacinto lake grew many acres of tule, affording a wonderful vantage ground for the hunter. My father, who planted the first orange grove on the Hemet tract, hauled loads of this tule for wrapping the trees against frost. The grove was owned by a Mr. Fountain, pioneer of Banning, and was just east of the old Yetter nursery.

Driving home one morning from a night's work irrigating that grove my team shied at an object in the brush near the road. I stopped to investigate and found an Indian with blood-saturated shirt more dead than alive. I managed to get him into the wagon and hauled him home, where my mother recognized him as one of her former pupils in the Soboba school. (Editor's Note: Mrs. Mary Sheriff Fowler established the first government school among the Mission Indian of California at Soboba. She was a personal friend of Helen Hunt Jackson, and the two women worked together in retaining for the Indians a large part of the most desirable land of the Soboba Reservation. It was also from Mrs. Fowler that Mrs. Jackson obtained much of the data from which she wrote Ramona.) He had been shearing sheep at the Ortega ranch west of Hemet, where in a row the night before he had been stabbed. He had started across country for Soboba but had fallen exhausted, fortunately near where his trail crossed the road. Mother dressed his wound, gave him food and started me off with him for the reservation. The last I heard of him he was still shearing sheep, and considered one of the best from the Soboba reservation. Some experience for a 15-year-old, but more of an experience for the Indian!

Another remembrance of those days was the cottonwood box factory, in the timber near the present Gilman Hot Springs road. An expensive mill was built, thousands of trees were felled and the mill was run for some time before it was discovered that the product was unfit for commercial use. Exceptionally heavy with sap, the boards warped and twisted "all over the yard" and when dry were bone-like in brittleness. The box factory never made a box, but for years afterwards odd boards from the mill were doing service on ranches thereabout. It used to be said that the biggest objection to cottonwood boards was that you couldn't build anything but a circular corral with them!

Just before the turn of the century the townsite of Florida was platted and the first structure to be built, of course, was a large hotel, as it followed the pattern of all boom towns of California. The settlement is now Valle Vista, but its main thoroughfare is still Florida avenue. The Indians rather resented the building of that hotel, as they told my mother the white men were building a big house for jackrabbits. The Soboba Indians used to have great rabbit drives in that area.

It was in the early 1890's that the San Jacinto and Pleasant Valley Irrigation district was formed, under the old Maxwell Irrigation act. The district extended from what was known as the Griffin cienega south of Soboba Indian reservation to Menifee valley, beyond Winchester, embracing how many thousand acres I wouldn't know, but I do know that as a kid I put in many a day with team and scraper on that open ditch system that brought the first drop of gravity flow water to the mesa section. It was soon found that the supply was far from sufficient to supply the vast area first included and it was finally 'cut down to size' to include the present Fruitvale district.

FASHIONS ELEGANTLY EXPRESSIVE FOR ALL SIZES

McCowens DRESS SHOP

115 E. Florida Hemet

CONGRATULATIONS HEMET . . .

On Your "Golden Anniversary"

We have been serving the Valley too, since 1952, by selling and servicing Studebakers, Larks, Hawks, Jeeps and 4 wheel trucks.

JOHN H. GILLILAND

New and Used Cars

Complete Garage Service

525 W. Florida BRAKE — WHEEL ALIGNMENT Ph. OL 8-3291

Old Fashioned Courtesy — Modern Prompt Service

HUTT PHARMACY

105 N. Harvard Hemet, Calif. Phone OL 8-3213

BEST WISHES

to the City of Hemet on its

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HEMET RETAIL LIQUOR

H. R. BUXTON

Ph. OL 8-5136

209 E. Florida Hemet

Thomas Jefferson Rawson Was Colorful Pioneer Figure

None but his immediate family knew that Tommy Rawson had a middle name until he died in 1957. He had been christened Thomas Jefferson Rawson. He passed away at his ranch home in the mountains southwest of Hemet at the age of 78. He was one of California's most colorful native sons.

As a teller of tall tales about people, events and experiences in the southwest, Tommy Rawson ran a close second to Walter Scott (Death Valley Scotty).

Although many of his stories were purely imaginary, they were highly entertaining and would attract an audience whenever and wherever he started telling them.

Nothing pleased him more than to entertain a group of children with his almost inexhaustible repertoire of tall tales of the early west.

■

He had been a beekeeper and rancher on the fabulous Rawson ranch in Crown valley all his life. In late years he had also operated his ranch holdings as a wildlife sanctuary. The valley is west of Sage.

Little was known in the outside world of the ranch, although men in many places of the Southland spoke of it, having spent a day or a week visiting with Tommy Rawson. A few months before his death, Rawson estimated his holdings at 30,000 acres, the largest ranch under the ownership of one individual in Riverside county.

Rawson's father and mother acquired portions of the vast ranch by homesteading. Other sections, which were originally railroad grants, he purchased in more recent times.

A man of mystery, Rawson seldom came to town, especially in recent years, but he had known many famous men through the years.

The herd of Brahma cattle on the Rawson ranch were offspring of "Sacred Cows of India," which were secured for him by Theodore Roosevelt. General H. H. Arnold is said to have used a stone house on the ranch as a retreat while in Southern California during World War II.

On the ranch is the first schoolhouse in Riverside county, built in 1877. The building leans against a more modern Crown valley schoolhouse, built by Rawson in 1910.

On the ranch, Rawson also experimented with fruit trees from Tibet, apricots from Manchuria, pines and cactus from throughout the world, as well as new agricultural creations sent him by the U. S. government.

Tommy Rawson did a great deal of prospecting in Riverside, San Diego and Imperial counties, as well as Baja California, during his lifetime. He had searched for the legendary Peg Leg mine, and could recount many stories of strange things seen in out of the way places in the southwest.

His life spanned a period when men traveled from pueblo to pueblo in Southern California by horseback or in buckboard, to the modern day of the automobile and swift flying planes linking great cities.

THE FIRST NEWSBOY

One of the people who had an important part in presenting the first issue of The Hemet News to the public 70 years ago was George R. Boalich, now of Los Angeles.

He was the circulation department—on foot. He came to Hemet as a boy the year The Hemet News was born, and he grew up to become a prominent local business man. He was in the lumber business here for 40 years before moving to Los Angeles.

For Forty Years...

WE HAVE BEEN HELPING THE PEOPLE OF HEMET TO BECOME HOME OWNERS. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU AND WE ARE PROUD OF THE PART WE HAVE HAD IN THE GROWTH OF THIS FINE COMMUNITY.

SEE US FIRST . . .
ABOUT A LOW-COST HOME LOAN!

HEMET FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSN.

LOANS — SAVINGS — ESCROWS

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The Valley's Newest and Finest Motor Hotel

Pioneer Days Hemet News Printer Tells Experiences

Continued From Page 55

little city if not the liveliest, still the dustiest in California. Parenthetically, I might say that there was very little gold in the dust that filled the office of The News!

For three years I continued publishing The News, until one day out of a clear sky I was told by P. N. Myers, who succeeded Mayberry as general manager, that Whittier, his boss, was putting in another paper and that I had better see him at once. That I lost no time in doing, presenting my sister's case as best I could, but Whittier was adamant, said the paper had too much San Jacinto news in it to suit him. "Why," said the multimillionaire, "I thought the paper was published in San Jacinto until I looked at the heading." I suggested to him that Peter Milliken, who had worked with me a few months previous in getting out a special edition, might buy The News. That seemed to strike a responsive chord. He told me to go ahead, "providing the Winchester Recorder is not already on the road." In response to my telegram Mr. Milliken came at once from Ventura, got in touch with Whittier, who called off the other paper, and Milliken agreed to buy from Mrs. Kerr provided I would stay with him for a year. That I agreed to do, for I was desperately anxious to save my sister's property, which would have been worth nothing had Whittier carried out his original plan.

■

Peter Milliken and I worked together for more than two years. During that time we established the Perris Progress. Linotypes were at that time coming into general use by metropolitan papers. Even in Riverside the Press and the Enterprise each boasted one. At that time Will Cresmer, a San Jacinto boy, was working for Mark Plaisted on the Enterprise and was the first to learn the keyboard on the new Linotype. Will Cresmer is now head of the nation-wide advertising agency of Cresmer & Woodward, Inc.

We arranged to have several galleys of type set in Riverside each week, and by running the same reading matter and ads, to a considerable extent, in both papers, we were able to cover the two fields, printing both papers in The News shop. I often wonder how we did it, even with hours from 7 to 6 and a six-day week.

Soon after I left The News, Peter Milliken put in electric power, a Linotype, automatic job press and other equipment, and the days of "kicking" a jobber and "hand pegging" were gone forever on "California's model weekly."

EARTHQUAKES IN 1899 AND 1918

History records two major earthquakes in what is now known as the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley. The first came on Christmas morning, 1899, and the second was on Sunday afternoon, April 21, 1918.

There were no fatalities in the 1918 quake, probably because on Sunday afternoon there were few people in downtown buildings or on the downtown streets. Several Indian women died when the adobe brick Catholic church at the Soboba reservation was demolished in the quake of 1899. They were attending early Christmas mass.

At the time of the 1899 disaster there were few buildings where Hemet now stands, but at San Jacinto and Florida (Valle Vista) numerous two-story brick buildings were demolished. These included the county hospital, then located in San Jacinto's "old town," principally on what is now Hewitt street.

Charles Van Fleet, now chief ranger at the San Jacinto headquarters of the California Forestry service, was a boy in San Jacinto then and well remembers the quake which came just before daylight on Christmas day. A heavy rumble preceded the quake, he says, and then a grating, grinding sound that increased in volume as the earth began to tremble.

Buildings most damaged were those built of brick and lime morter from local kilns.

In and around San Jacinto the earthquake caused most of the artesian wells to spout more than their normal flow of water.

Some of the geological changes resulting from the quake were landslides along a fault which left a steep cliff visible to this day just east of Soboba Hot Springs, and the creation of a "sink" near Bautista canyon.

In the 1918 earthquake, damage in Hemet was confined largely to business buildings on Harvard street and Florida avenue. There were numerous wrecked chimneys in residential areas.

Most seriously damaged were brick buildings on the east side of Harvard street north of Florida. The one-story building formerly occupied by The News was three stories before the quake. There was an opera house on the second floor and the Odd Fellows hall on the third floor. The quake shook the second story off the Tyson building in the same block, and the First National Bank building and the Farmers and Merchants Bank building on opposite corners at Florida and Harvard, were badly wrecked.

Damage in the 1918 quake was much more severe in San Jacinto than in Hemet. With the exception of the newer concrete buildings a few frame structures, every business house on San Jacinto's Main street was wrecked.

HOTEL 80 YEARS OLD

One of the landmarks in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley is the Pioneer hotel built at San Jacinto in 188[illegible] by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lockwood. Because of its frame construction, this two-story building survived both the 1899 and 1918 earthquakes.

The Lockwood House, as it was first known, was for many years the only hotel in San Jacinto. Its owners were grandparents of Mrs. Tom Williamson of San Jacinto and Charles W. Lockwood, former San Jacinto school superintendent who is now chamber of commerce secretary at Lompoc.

Thomas Lockwood died in the 90's but Mrs. Lockwood continued to manage the hotel until around 191[illegible] when she died. At that time, Mrs. Emma Lockwood, the widow of Charles Lockwood, Sr., became the owner and continued to run the hotel until she passed away in 193[illegible]

Mrs. Tom Williamson, Mrs. Lockwood's daughter then became the owner and continued to operate the hotel until 1947 when it passed out of the Lockwood family's hands through a sale to Mrs. Charles Deegan. It has since changed hands several times. The property is now owned by Mrs. Ellen Sherwood who bought about five years ago from Mrs. Minnie Cooper, who had acquired it from Mr. Leighton, who is believed to have bought it from Mrs. Deegan.

Do You Remember:

When the man at the grocery store gave you kids a big sack of candy whenever dad paid the bill?

A GROWING LINE OF MODERN COMMUNICATIONS

For more than 35 years, California Water & Telephone Company has been improving and extending its telephone facilities to provide its thousands of customers with modern, dependable service at reasonable rates.

An important measure of our progress is the almost $100,000,000 which has been invested over the years in new equipment and larger, more efficient plant. This year another $12,000,000 will be spent. This huge investment—made possible by the confidence of our stockholders—and the skill and knowhow of our 2,000 employees—helps build better business for everyone in the growing California communities we serve.

California Water & Telephone Company

Big Enterprise Entirely Home Owned

Hemet Packing Company's Payroll Largest in Valley

The valley's most important agricultural processing plant is the cannery of the Hemet Packing company which has been operating 43 years.

Principal crops canned are apricots, peaches, olives and spinach.

The Hemet Packing company today on its own ranches grows a substantial part of the apricots, peaches and spinach packed. The company employs more than 500 people at the height of the summer fruit season.

The present Hemet Packing company started as the Hemet Canning company in 1910, the original investors being W. S. Mudd, J. M. Frazier, William Bruce and J. G. Nelson.

Other early investors were L. G. Seely, who acquired a stock interest in 1911, and H. A. Von Hemert, who joined the organization in 1912.

In 1915, original owners of the Hemet Canning company started the Pomona Valley Canning company at Pomona in association with the J. K. Armsby company, and Mr. Von Hemert went to Pomona to manage the plant there. Two years later the Hemet cannery investors acquired a cannery at Kingsburg. Mr. Mudd went there as manager and Mr. Nelson took over the management of the Hemet plant. In 1919 the California Packing corporation, which had been created a year previously in a merger of the Armsby and other companies, acquired a half-interest in the Hemet Canning company and the other plants in which the Hemet men were interested.

At that time the Golden State Canneries was formed in a consolidation of the Hemet Canning company, the Pomona Valley Canning company, the Kingsburg Canning company and the Golden State Canning company of Ontario and Cucamonga. The Hemet plant then began operating under the Golden State Canneries' name.

By this time the Messrs. Seely, Frazier and Bruce had sold their interests in the Hemet plant. Mr. Mudd was also made president and manager of the Golden State Canneries, and the Hemet plant operated five years as a unit of that organization.

The Golden State Canneries ran into financial difficulties in 1920 but limped along until the end of the 1923 season when the California Packing corporation negotiated a liquidation program. In the course of liquidation, Mr. Nelson was offered the Hemet plant. He accepted the offer and formed a local company with about a dozen Hemet stockholders. The name Hemet Packing company was adopted and officers were elected as follows: J. G. Nelson, president and manager; W. G. Stevenson, vice president; J. Glen Brubaker, secretary and superintendent and Thomas J. Fletcher, treasurer. Thomas C. Nelson, now the president, became assistant secretary in 1938.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On December 27, 1908, a group of Hemet residents met at the high school assembly building, then located at Acacia avenue and Buena Vista street, to form a new Presbyterian church for the isolated farming community. That they were successful is evidenced in the present First Presbyterian church, with 420 members and now planning a complete rebuilding program.

Dr. W. B. Noble, Riverside synodical missionary, was the organizing minister, accepting 27 charter members. First elders of the new church were John Jones, W. R. McIntosh and Burdette Raynor. Mr. McIntosh served as moderator of the new congregation until the arrival of the Rev. James W. Mount, the church's first pastor. He came to Hemet in May, 1909.

Other church officers included Mr. Raynor, clerk of the session; W. H. Bryant, D. D. Stevens, Edwin Salmon, Mr. McIntosh, Walter Wheeler and J. G. West, trustees.

The charter membership list was as follows:

Mrs. Augusta A. Copeland, Mrs. E. E. Creighton, Mrs. Ethel Crow, Miss Grace H. deFremery, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Edingfield, Miss Ethel Foskett, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gamble, Mrs. Mary C. Holden, Mrs. Fannie H. Jones, Fred and John Jones, Mrs. Ella McIntosh, Chester S. McIntosh, Mrs. Caroline H. Raynor, Burdette Raynor, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin T. Salmon, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Stevens, J. G. West.

In March, 1909, the new church formed a Sunday school department. Charter members in this department were:

The Rev. James Mount, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bryant, Mrs. Ethel Crow, H. P. Dilworth, Dorothy Glenna, Marjorie and Russell Edingfield, Mrs. M. C. Holden, Mrs. Fannie H. Jones, Fred, John and Paul Jones, Mr. and Mrs. F. V. Kundert and Marie B. Kundert, Royal Magoon, Florence M., Hazel E. and Willie Martin; Chester, Harold, Inez and Ruth McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McIntosh, Alberta A. and Mr. and Mrs. Burdette Raynor, Emma and Albert E. Salmon, Catherine M. Sanford, Pearl and Lela Stevens, Walter Wheeler.

NO SHORTS THEN

More than 200 ordinances have been adopted since the city of Hemet was incorporated. Some of them are interesting in the light of history.

Ordinance No. 13, if enforced today, would ban the wearing of shorts and slacks by women of the modern generation. Passed in 1910, the ordinance reads in part as follows:

"It shall be unlawful for any individual to publicly expose his person . . . neither shall any person clothe himself or herself in garments of the opposite sex to appear in public places except in theatrical performances where the proprieties are observed."

Another ordinance provides that horse-drawn vehicles shall have the right-of-way over automobiles provided the driver signals for it. The motorist, upon receiving the signal, must stop his car and shut off his motor.

The Hemet fire department was created by ordinance October 5, 1910, and the remuneration of the volunteer firemen was set at $2 for the chief and $1 for the members for each fire attended. The first motorized fire truck was purchased by the city in 1915.

OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO HEMET
ON THIS, ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

HEMET CASTING CO.

1125 W. ACACIA HEMET

OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY . . .

The Hotel Vosburg (Farmer House) founded in 1885 by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Farmer. Picture above was taken in 1891. Name was changed from Farmer House to Hotel Vosburg about 1904. Present operator, William R. Vosburg, is the grandson of the founders.

FROM US, WHO ARE CELEBRATING OUR
75th ANNIVERSARY, WE WISH TO SAY
HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY
TO THE CITY OF HEMET

HOTEL VOSBURG
SAN JACINTO

SAN JACINTO'S LAST LYNCHING

This is the story of San Jacinto's last lynching.

Early in the last half of the nineteenth century bands of fast riding Mexican bandits sometimes made raids on the sheep and cattle ranches of the San Jacinto Valley.

The entire state was infested with such robber bands, and oldtimers claim the legendary Joaquin Murietta's men and the band of fiery Tiburcio Vasquez often swept down on Francisco Estudillo's ranch and made off with fine horses.

There are no records substantiating these claims and in all likelihood the bandits who raided this valley were not led by such illustrious badmen. They were more likely local and tiny gangs of desperados, sweeping down from hideouts in the San Gorgonio pass.

■

But San Jacinto settlers had one summary method of dealing with these bandits if they were captured. Judge Lynch was the law of the land.

The last necktie party recorded in the annals of San Jacinto occurred in 1878.

An ex-soldier named Adam Neese and his wife lived near here and one evening at dusk a Mexican appeared at their cabin and asked for food and to remain the night.

The wife was preparing the food while her husband chatted with the visitor in the yard. Suddenly she heard the sound of a falling body.

She rushed to the door, where she was met by the Mexican. He forced her backward into the room. She battled against him desperately and finally managed to break loose, reaching her corral in safety.

She then rode to the nearest home of another settler and raised an alarm. Other settlers rode back with her to the ranch, where they found her husband stabbed to death and the assailant gone.

■

After several days of searching, posses found the fugitive in a deserted sheep camp at San Ignacio, now the mountain community of Sage, 10 miles south of what is now Hemet.

Brought back to San Jacinto, which then consisted only of Kennedy's store and a mail station, the man was chained to the floor of an adobe building.

Constable Ortega prepared to take the man to San Bernardino for trial the following day. But near sundown, someone pretending he wanted to shoot a wildcat, borrowed Ortega's pistol.

Shortly afterward a party of armed settlers broke into the adobe room where Ortega guarded his prisoner and seized the man.

They then marched him to the most convenient cottonwood tree and hoisted him aloft.

THE 1884 FLOOD

Greatest flood the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley ever experienced, so far as any living person knows, was in 1884.

The late Martin Meier, pioneer Hemet lumber dealer, knew all about it, for he nearly lost his life when thrown into the San Jacinto river near the present site of the San Jacinto ranger station.

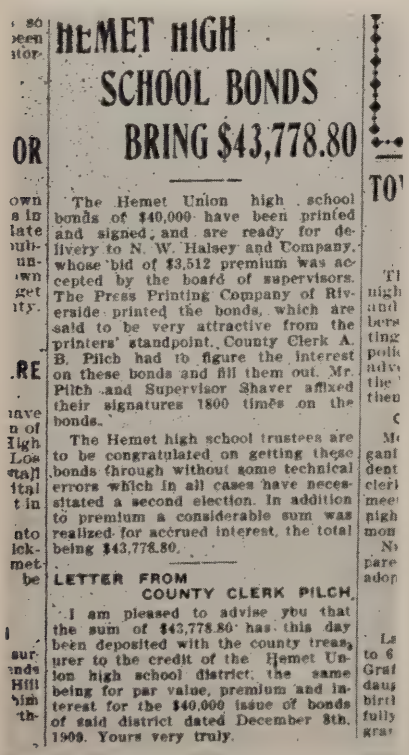
Rainfall in two days amounted to 17 inches. There was no Hemet dam then to hold back the water and it rushed down the mountain until the entire valley as far as the eye could see was a veritable ocean.

Mr. Meier was employed at the sawmill near Idyllwild at the time of the flood.

Do You Remember:

When the first girls you had ever seen in overalls were the so-called Farmerettes imported from Los Angeles to Hemet to relieve the apricot harvest help shortage back in World War I days? Housing for them was provided in Hemet school buildings.

When almost every kid, in addition to wanting to be a policeman or a fireman, had an ambition to ride in the cupola of the caboose on a freight train?



HEMET HIGH SCHOOL BONDS BRING $43,778.80

The Hemet Union high school bonds of $40,000 have been printed and signed, and are ready for delivery to N. W. Halsey and Company, whose bid of $3,512 premium was accepted by the board of supervisors. The Press Printing Company of Riverside printed the bonds, which are said to be very attractive from the printers' standpoint. County Clerk A. B. Pilch had to figure the interest on these bonds and fill them out. Mr. Pilch and Supervisor Shaver affixed their signatures 1800 times on the bonds.

The Hemet high school trustees are to be congratulated on getting these bonds through without some technical errors which in all cases have necessitated a second election. In addition to premium a considerable sum was realized for accrued interest, the total being $43,778.80.

LETTER FROM COUNTY CLERK PILCH

"I am pleased to advise you that the sum of $43,778.80 has this day been deposited with the county treasurer to the credit of the Hemet Union high school district, the same being for par value, premium and interest for the $40,000 issue of bonds of said district dated December 8th, 1909. Yours very truly,

1910 BOND ISSUE—Reproduction of 1910 news story in The Hemet News.

Early Blacksmith Shop

Woolry's blacksmith shop on Latham avenue just east of Harvard in Hemet was a public meeting place up to 40 years ago. The valley's leading men stopped there to swap chaws and political opinions.

John L. Woolry, the veteran blacksmith, was on friendly terms with both men and horses.

This little man with the iron muscles held the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley horse-shoeing record. With the help of an assistant he shod 22 horses all around in one day.

Soboba Springs Developer

Recent visitors in the valley were Mr. and Mrs. James T. Ritchey of Yucaipa. It was Mr. Ritchey's father, the late Col. James T. Ritchey, who developed the Soboba Hot Springs resort property about 1900.

Col. Ritchey moved his family to San Jacinto shortly after he sold the famous Casa Loma hotel at Redlands. His son was a pupil in the old two-story red brick schoolhouse at San Jacinto.

Col. Ritchey died in 1908 and the family sold the Soboba property and moved to Los Angeles.

HARTFORD Fire Insurance Co.
"Insurance at its Best"
Representing the Hartford Group in This Area

Divine's
Complete Real Estate and Insurance Service
H. L. Divine—H. E. Divine—Helen Quast Watts Lloyd—A. J. Verndam
142 E. Main St., San Jacinto, OL 4-3611

CONGRATULATIONS, HEMET - - - From the Big Three

LLOYD RECORD— The oldest Chrysler-Plymouth-Valiant dealership in California.

JOHNNIE FREITAS— Parts and garage service for all makes and models of automobiles.

JERRY FREEMAN— Lubrication and service, using the standard of the world, Chevron & Standard Oil products and research.

RECORD GARAGE

City Engineer Frank Stetson Retires at Age of 83

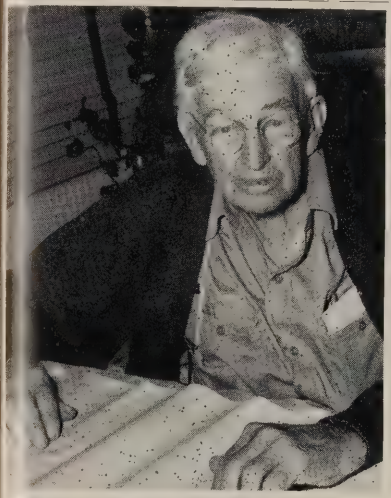
After a career of 56 years as a surveyor and civil engineer in the Hemet Valley, Frank W. Stetson, who will be 83 next April, announced his retirement early this year.

For more than half a century he has been a familiar figure and one of the best known citizens of the Hemet-San Jacinto area.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Stetson, preceded him here. They came from Watertown, Massachusetts, before the turn of the century.

●

Frank arrived in California the day following the Christmas morning earthquake which destroyed most of the business buildings in San Jacinto, Hemet and Valle Vista (then known as Florida). He landed in Los Angeles but did not come to Hemet until a year later. He remembers, however, that the railroad was running excursion trains to San Jacinto because of the demand from people who wanted to see the earthquake damage.



END OF AN ERA—Frank Stetson, Hemet city engineer since incorporation in 1910, has rolled up his maps and cased his transit for the last time. Earlier this year he announced his retirement after residence here since 1902. His father was C. T. Stetson, a New Englander who brought his family here around the turn of the century. Mr. Stetson did most of the early days surveying in the Hemet Valley. He is an uncle of City Councilman Robert Stetson, cannery superintendent for the Hemet Packing company.

Frank Stetson did come to the valley in 1900 to visit briefly. But then he went north to Berkeley where he completed his engineering studies at the University of California. His parents moved here in November, 1902.

After obtaining his engineering degree he moved to Hemet to stay in May of 1902 and that summer worked in the apricot harvest.

●

He started work as a surveyor and engineer in 1903, when P. N. Myers, manager of the old Lake Hemet Water company and other Whittier interests, sent for him.

He remembers that his first survey job was for a Mr. Myer, an early day contractor who had purchased 12 acres of hill land at the south end of Soboba street.

Despite his 83 years, Mr. Stetson has a fabulous memory. He recalls voting in the 1902 and 1904 elections in Hemet. There was no polling place in what is now the Park Hill area where the Stetson family lived. Frank was a bachelor then, as now.

Frank Stetson had lived in the same house 50 years — a house he moved from Winchester to a three-acre tract which he purchased at the corner of Oakland and Park avenues, from 1903 to 1953. In recent years he has lived in town.

●

He was appointed Hemet's city engineer in 1910, when the city was incorporated, and still retains that title.

He made a survey establishing grades over the original 160-acre Hemet townsite in 1910.

Mr. Stetson has also been city engineer for San Jacinto for many years. Since 1947 he has served as a member of the San Jacinto Planning commission. In reminiscing about his years in the Hemet Valley, Mr. Stetson recalled this week that in 1904 he did survey work for the late Edward Schwacofer and L. T. Schwacofer, Sr., brothers, who came here from Ohio with their father, Adolphus Schwacofer. The property was located on Meridian street, between Acacia and Mayberry avenue, across from the present Little Lake school.

Congratulations to the City of Hemet on its 50th Anniversary

CAIN LIQUORS

OLive 8-2446

318 East Florida Ave.

Hemet

Headquarters for...

• ALFALFA • SEED GRAINS
• PASTURE GRASS & ALL OTHERS
• CUSTOM CLEANING

McCall & Noblitt

NO. HARVARD HEMET PHONE OL 8-5134

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HEMET . . .

You, as we, have assured the best to the people of our city.

AUTO • LIABILITY

FIRE • BONDS • LIFE

401 EAST LATHAM Across from the New Civic Center HEMET

BEST WISHES . . .

to the City of Hemet on its Golden Anniversary

—●—

MADDOX TIRE SERVICE

160 N. Carmalita Ph. OL 8-5223

FOSTER FAMILY—Located on what is now the site for the new Hemet civic center was an assortment of small rental houses, cabins and tent houses. The property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Foster, who came here in the 90's. This house was the Foster home and office. Left to right in picture above are Mr. Foster, Mrs. Virgil Brennan and baby daughter, Evelyn, Mrs. Foster and Alonzo Daniels with his dog. Mr. Foster was Hemet's Prohibition party leader for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Foster were the uncle and aunt of Mrs. Veryn Dillon and Mrs. Ray Reed, both still living here.

THE GREAT DAY JAPAN SURRENDERED

Were you here on the great day Japan's surrender brought an end to World War II? It was August 15, 1945.

The flash of victory at 4 o'clock in the afternoon set off in Hemet the wildest and noisiest celebration in the city's history. It continued until midnight with hundreds of hysterically happy men, women and children milling through the downtown streets.

It was Halloween and New Year's eve bundled in a single package. Automobiles, many of them decorated with American flags and colored streamers, were driven wildly up and down Florida avenue. There were scores of collisions but no serious accidents.

Watermelons were hurled through the air and broken on the pavement; fire hydrants were turned on; bales of hay were broken up in the streets, and the hullabaloo was climaxed by an impromptu street dance to the music of a "pick-up" orchestra which included a piano, two saxophones, a trumpet, clarinet and an accordion.

•

Stores began closing as soon as the victory news came and all business houses except a few eating places remained closed throughout Wednesday. Cocktail bars and liquor stores locked their doors immediately.

At 15 minutes past 4 o'clock it was realized that the fire siren had not been blown. Somebody took care of that.

There were scores of victory cocktail parties in homes throughout the valley.

A sailor, his chest bedecked with ribbons and battle stars, grabbed a girl at the corner of Florida and Harvard and kissed her. She was flabbergasted.

"Thanks, baby," he said, "the war's over; that's a kiss for victory."

Five army planes swept low over the city adding the roar of their motors to the bedlam in the streets and on the sidewalks.

Not everybody was hilarious. There were those who stood quietly and wept silently. In the crowds were mothers and fathers whose sons had paid the full price of victory.

Hemet, like the rest of the nation, had been jittery throughout the day as the result of a Japanese broadcast of surrender picked up late Monday night. As the hours dragged on without the surrender note being received at the White House, the city became skeptical that victory was near.

■

The end came with such dramatic suddenness that the Hemet-San Jacinto Ministerial association had made no arrangements for a union church service such as was held in observance of V-E day.

Although no record was kept, it is believed that the number of calls handled by the Hemet and San Jacinto telephone exchanges during the two hours immediately following the victory announcement established an all-time record. Every long distance line was in constant use for 12 hours.

Hemet had waited agonizing days for this hour, and there was no means or desire to stop the pandemonium once it got underway. Strangers slapped one another on the back. Men and women threw their hats in the air and screamed. Just about every emotion was displayed.

Wednesday morning the Hemet street department began cleaning up and by noon there was little evidence of the most riotous night in the city's history.

Members of the marine corps detachment at Ryan Field displayed their enthusiasm by running fire trucks and other equipment around the landing mat and otherwise staging a celebration all their own. The 50 marines at the field were given leave for two days.

•

Tuesday night's celebration was in sharp contrast to the quiet observance of V-E day May 8. It resembled, but exceeded in joyous hilarity, the armistice celebration of November 11, 1918.

Dr. John B. Weston, former mayor, recalled events of the 1918 celebration. He said:

"First news of the armistice was received after midnight by The Hemet News in a telephone message from Los Angeles. The late John E. King, then publisher of The News, immediately telephoned me and I notified the late J. O. Percival, owner of the Valley Ice & Laundry company, who started blowing the laundry whistle which woke up the entire community. The celebration started at once and continued throughout the day."

46 Died in World War II

Forty-six Hemet-San Jacinto Valley area men were killed in action or died in the service during World War II.

It is also a matter of record that the Hemet-San Jacinto area sent 1321 men and women into the armed services during that war.

The Hemet-San Jacinto area had three double Gold Star mothers, perhaps a record not equalled by another American community of comparable size.

Mrs. Maria Helms of the Soboba Indian reservation lost her sons, Reynaldo and Romaldo, in action in the European war theater.

Mrs. Mae Sliff, sister of Thomas J. Fletcher, Hemet banker, lost her sons, Lawrence and Donald, when their bombing planes were shot down.

Mrs. Carrie Johnson of Hemet gave her sons, Andrew and Robert, as the price of victory.

None Killed in Action

According to a report by the California Historical Survey commission in 1919, no Hemet-San Jacinto Valley boy was killed in action in World War I.

However, eight local men died of disease either overseas or in camps in this country. They were Perry B. Record, Frederick W. Hofmann and a man named Brooks whose first name is not in the records, all of San Jacinto;

Timothy W. Crosby, John J. Morse, Charles A. Tiller, Orville W. Wierson and Harold W. Hyland, all of Hemet.

FACE OF DAM—This was the face in 1906 of the great Hemet dam at the head of South Fork canyon. At the time of its construction in 1893 it was the largest masonry dam in the United States. Behind it was formed Lake Hemet from which irrigation water flows to the orchards of the Hemet Valley, many miles below.

Cornell Park

(Off Cornell 1 Block South of Florida)

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2 BEDROOM AND 2 BEDROOM WITH DEN HOMES

QUALITY BUILT FOR "THE YOUNG AT HEART"

- **EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD**
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ROBERT D. BEAN

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR

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THE HEMET NEWS.

VOL. I. HEMET, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1893. NO. 1.

AFTER MORE TRADE!

No doubt you are thoroughly familiar with the fact that our house sells more Boots and Shoes than all the other houses in this city. But we are AFTER MORE TRADE. We never rest. Our old customers we retain, but we're after new ones. You may be one of 'em. Perhaps you've never purchased in our house before. Isn't it about time that you call around and see what we're doing?

It'll be dollars in your pocket and some in ours—the thing will be mutual. Therefore suppose you drop in this week and take a look at our large stock. We will please you.

McCORMICK'S : SHOE : HOUSE,
SAN JACINTO.

J. RIOS & SON,
PROPRIETORS
City Blacksmith
AND
Repairing Shops
REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS
NEATLY AND PROMPTLY DONE.
HORSE-SHOEING A SPECIALTY.
HEMET, CALIFORNIA.

POWELL & CAUDELL,
PROPRIETORS OF THE
HEMET
LIVERY, FEED AND SALE
STABLES
Horses Boarded by Day or Week.
BUGGIES ALL NEW.
BEST TURNOUTS IN THE VALLEY
HEMET, CALIFORNIA.

South San Jacinto Harness Shop,
J. CARMICHAEL, PROPRIETOR.
Light and Heavy Harness Made to Order.
PRICES REASONABLE.
PALMA BLOCK, [tf] SOUTH SAN JACINTO

UNION MEAT MARKET,
J. T. MORGAN, PROPRIETOR.
DEALER IN
ALL KINDS OF FRESH AND SALTED MEATS.
SHOP TWO DOORS WEST OF REGISTER OFFICE,
SAN JACINTO, CAL.

J. F. SHULTZ & CO.
PROPRIETORS OF
PIONEER BLACKSMITH SHOP.
All Kinds of Work Done with Neatness and Dispatch.
HORSESHOEING A SPECIALTY
Corner of Trellway and Central Avenues,
SAN JACINTO, [tf] CALIFORNIA

OUR VALLEY

A Brief Resume of The Several More Important Sections of

SAN JACINTO VALLEY

A Short Outline of the Location and Resources of the Best and Most Available Land in Riverside County, all of Which is Tributary to the City of Hemet.

At the foot of the range of hills skirting along the line of the Southern Pacific railroad from San Bernardino to Banning and to the southward lies the great fertile and extensive plain of the San Jacinto valley. Bounded on the north by this line of broken hills, with the snow capped peak of San Jacinto for the corner-stone, and on the east by a spur of the same range extending south from the same peak, forming a semi-circle which makes a complete protection against desert winds, the valley is thus formed into one completely land-locked agricultural harbor. With the exception of a few bald knobs, of a few feet in height, the valley of the San Jacinto consists of one unbroken plain, containing in all over 150,000 acres of land, all of which is adapted to some form of agricultural pursuit, or the raising of citrus or deciduous fruits.

CITY AND LANDS OF HEMET.

Beginning at the line of the railroad, and some seven miles to the south of the range of hills bounding it on the north and extending thence in a southeasterly direction, is situated the lands of the Hemet Land company, in all about 10,000 acres, of as fine mesa lands as may be found anywhere in the state of California. In the extreme western part of this tract is the little town of Hemet, which, when in its embryo state six months ago, contained scarcely little more than a commodious warehouse. The lands of this company are under one of the most complete water systems on the whole coast, those of the Bear Valley and Sweetwater not excepted. The water for this tract is taken from the range of mountains forming the watershed on the east and is stored in a natural reservoir, the closing of which has taken three years in construction and the expenditure of over $600,000.

THE GREAT HEMET DAM.

Of this massive structure of masonry perhaps no better idea can be given of the enormity of the undertaking than is shown in a descriptive article which appeared from the pen of a Los Angeles writer in Mr. Mann's special edition of the San Jacinto Register of January of last year, when the work was fully at its height. He says: "At present the traveler sees nothing of the work going on until brought by the sinuosities of the way close upon it. Then, standing upon the brink, he gazes into the canon below and is at first amazed by a combination of steam engines and swiftly moving machinery, swaying cables and steadily moving men, who from his point of view appear but children in size in the depths below. Closer examination, however, reveals the great ingenuity and tact which has evolved a system and perfected plans by means of which what at first sight appeared complicated and intricate is shown to be the very perfection of constructive ability. Mr. E. L. Mayberry, the general manager, is absent, but inquiry reveals the fact that this, that and the other device, by means of which labor is saved and the work expedited, had its origin in his fertile brain.

"Ordinarily in works of this character stone is quarried, hauled upon wagons, hauled by an army of teams slowly to the site, hoisted by derricks and deposited by great labor upon its bed. Here immense steel cables are stretched diagonally across the canon at great height, and running across and at right angles to the dam in process of construction below. From these cables depend great chains, hung upon most ingeniously constructed carriers which traverse the cables, drawn back and forth by steam engines perched upon the high walls upon the side. From the sides of the canon itself, both above and below the dam, are taken the rock used in construction.

"Immense blocks of granite are dislodged from the walls, fastened to the chains, and, at a signal to the engineer, suspended in mid air and smoothly rolled upon the cable to a point just outside the dam, where stands a man with hose and pipe who directs a powerful stream of water upon the rock thus suspended. In this manner the sand, or powdered rock, is completely worked from its faces and it is then, in a second of time, deposited upon the work. The cables used are sufficient in size to carry blocks of granite weighing thirty tons; in practice, however, it is usual to employ blocks of from five to fifteen tons in weight in building the outer face of the immense wall, which at fifty feet, its present height, is near a hundred feet in thickness and only some seventy five feet in length. The rock used is of the hardest variety of granite, known as "horn-blende," no other sort being found in the vicinity. The reader will understand that this work is being done in the mountains, and that although higher mountains surround, still the bed of the stream being dammed is about 5,000 feet above sea level.

"The upper and lower faces of the dam are constructed of huge blocks of stone carefully cut and fitted and laid in the best quality of cement. The interior is built up of equally large masses bedded in cement, concrete made of carefully washed sand, broken rock and Portland cement. Upon the right bank of the canon is located a powerful engine which operates a rock crusher, the sand elevator and the mortar mixer. In making concrete only the hardest rock is used, which is crushed by machinery. By means of a most ingenious contrivance, sand is taken from the bed of the stream, conveyed by the natural flow of water to a sand-house near by, washed clean from all extraneous matter, and by means of an elevator, much like a grain elevator in appearance, is carried high up the side of a cliff to the mixer, where, without being touched by the hand of man, it is deposited ready for use. The ingenuity displayed in this and the amount of labor saved can only be appreciated by those accustomed to seeing an array of sand haulers, screeners and hod carriers laboring upon a work of this, or inferior magnitude. Some slight idea of its size may be inferred from the fact that in construction thirty thousand barrels of cement will be required. This cement being hauled by six-mule teams up the mountain roads and delivered directly at the mixing house. The crusher is placed upon the upper landing of the mixing house where rock is made to fall into the iron jaws which reduce it. Gravity carries it to the floor below where the mixer is placed. This is an immense rectangular box of iron and is operated precisely as the box churn is used by dairymen in making butter, except that in this instance, as everywhere else about the work, machinery saves labor of man. The concrete being prepared, the door of the side of the "churn" is opened and it falls to a lower level into an iron car, running upon a track which extends to a point immediately over the dam, from whence it falls to the place it is to be used.

"The perfection of all the arrangements is such that everything moves like clock work and expenses are practically reduced to two items, labor and cement, and yet such is the magnitude of the work being performed that when in full operation one hundred men are employed. Four steam engines one water power and about eighty horses and mules, are used in all the various departments of work. About the dam is clustered a village where the little army is housed and fed. A portable steam sawmill is engaged in the manufacture of lumber, used by the Hemet company in its extensive business operations. Water is taken from the stream some two and a half miles above the dam and conveyed by means of a flume to a point high above the work, and thus a water-power is secured which is used in operating the derricks upon the dam, which place the stone after it is delivered by means of the cables.

"The writer is not vain enough to suppose that in what has been written the reader with no previous experience in dam building will be able to gather anything like an accurate idea of the magnitude, the solidity, or the thoroughness of the work being done which is to result in the highest dam and the largest reservoir in America. Accurate knowledge must be left to the time when the reader shall inspect the dam and consult the figures of the engineer, given elsewhere in this paper. The ordinary reader will doubtless be impressed by the fact that this dam, when completed, will conserve the drainage of over a hundred square miles of watershed, will cover an area of a thousand acres, and that the average depth over the thousand acres will be ninety feet, the height of the dam being 130 feet. This will afford water to irrigate, in round numbers, 50,000 acres of valley land. And all this is made possible by the erection of the Hemet dam, not only the highest but the finest and best constructed work of its character in existence."

This represents in part the enormous task accomplished in getting the water system for the lands of the company completed, furnishing the best of pure mountain water in quantities sufficient for more than twice the land owned by this company. It is not the purpose of THE NEWS to give an exhaustive account of the working details of the system, but will reserve it for a later issue.

Situated on the extreme western part of the tract is the townsite of Hemet, occupying one of the most beautiful, level and fertile portions of the domain. Being on the most eastern head of the California Southern railroad, the shipping facilities are unequaled in any part of the [illegible]. A year ago the [illegible] townsite [illegible] of a [illegible] house, and it was not until a little more than six months ago when the property was [illegible] the market and the town began building. The town is yet a small place, and in reality can not be said to be a "boom" town, though its growth has certainly been marvelous.

SAN JACINTO.

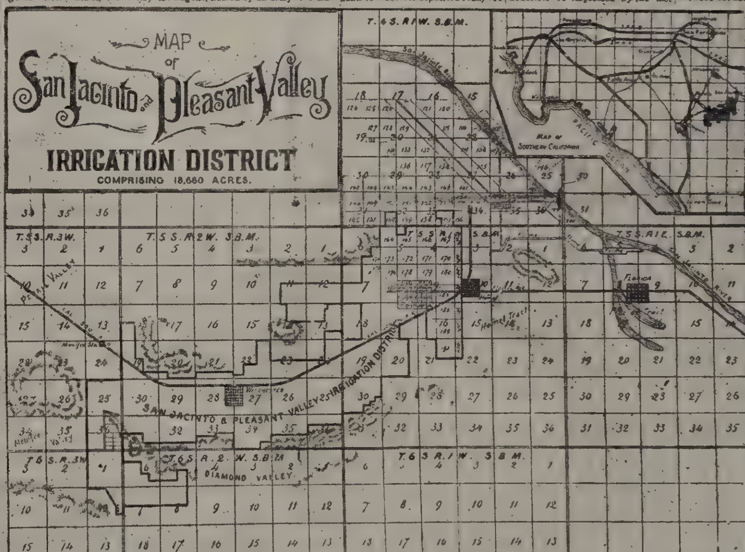
Lying to the northwest [illegible] four miles, at the terminus of [illegible] branch of the California [illegible] railroad, is the town of San Jacinto, now a thriving little city of some 1000 inhabitants. [illegible] surrounding the city is what is known as the "artesian belt," from the fact that within this district artesian wells are already numerous and easily multiplied, affording an uninterrupted flow of soft pure water in unlimited quantities. No finer water can be found in the world, and within the limits of this district, which embraces about 10,000 acres, any one can at small expense have a flowing stream of the purest water at his door, if he chooses. One of these artesian wells flows, by actual measurement, 440,000 gallons of water each twenty-four hours; another, 345,000. It is thus seen that within the limits of this belt no scarcity of water may be feared.

Surrounding the city is a belt of heavy cottonwood timber, covering some 2,200 acres, affording not only firewood but adding a singularly pleasing feature to the landscape. The soil immediately surrounding the city is all adapted to the growth of alfalfa and deciduous fruits, and is of unexcelled depth and strength. At a distance of about three-fourths of a mile what is termed the "mesa," or level plain, begins. The most of the [illegible] mesa land [illegible] free from stones and obstructions of every description, it presents, when irrigated, the finest field in the world for the use of the vintner and the horticulturist. The soil is very deep, averaging thirty feet in depth of rich and mellow loam. At a depth of thirty to fifty feet good water is found in abundance. So fruitful is the soil that many orchards and vineyards have been in successful and profitable cultivation for some years past without irrigation and many of the owners are well satisfied with the results obtained by them. It can not, however, be doubted that properly irrigated lands will double and quadruple the production of those unirrigated and with the extension of the irrigation canals now in operation, and the building of others, a new era of unexampled production and consequent wealth will dawn upon the valley.

DIAMOND VALLEY.

Situated to the south of the town of Hemet, around the small point of rocks and in a neat little cove well sheltered by the mountains, is Diamond valley, one of the prettiest and most prosperous subdivisions of the great San Jacinto valley. Consisting in all something over 6000 acres of as good soil as may be had anywhere in the valley, this section may be looked upon as one of the most important areas of country lying south of Hemet. Most of the soil is very rich and well adapted to all kinds of grain, vegetables and fruit. The raising of deciduous fruits is becoming an important industry, and the valley is already gaining quite a reputation for its fine productions. Pears, peaches, apricots, plums, apples, cherries, quinces, figs, nectarines and all other deciduous fruits, as far as tried, do well. The smaller fruits, such as strawberries, blackberries,

[Concluded on Fourth Page.]



The sections included in the dark line show the territory embraced in the San Jacinto and Pleasant Valley Irrigation District. The relative positions of Hemet and the country tributary to it may be noted.

VOLUME ONE, NUMBER ONE—This is the front page of the first issue of The Hemet News, dated December 9, 1893. It was a four-page paper and Joe Kerr was the founder and editor. The Hemet News has gone a long way in the 67 years since the above page was printed on an old press run by water power in a little frame building where the Brudin building now stands. In size and circulation, The Hemet News today is the largest rural semi-weekly on the Pacific coast.

Hemet News Founded in 1893

There were scarcely a score of houses in what is now the City of Hemet on December 9, 1893, when the first issue of The Hemet News was printed by Joe P. Kerr, the paper's founder.

In the 67 years that followed, The Hemet News has kept pace with the development of the valley. The paper took its greatest expansion step in 1953 with the erection of a modern 6500-square foot reinforced concrete building on the south side of Florida avenue between Taylor and Santa Fe streets. This building now houses the finest rural weekly or semi-weekly newspaper plant in California. The following year The Hemet News became a twice-weekly publication (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and the change was highly successful.

Today The Hemet News, in number of pages and in circulation, is the largest rural weekly or semi-weekly on the Pacific coast and has won almost every state and national first prize for excellence in the field of journalism.

Joe Kerr, the paper's founder, had been employed on a newspaper at San Jacinto as a printer and writer. When the waters of Lake Hemet were brought down into the valley following the building of the Hemet dam, the embryo city in a treeless expanse of sagebrush felt the need of a newspaper, and Joe Kerr heard the call.

A new star in the journalistic firmament was lighted and for 67 years it has blazed a path of progress and development.

■

Joe Kerr was a newspaper genius. He was a finished printer, an able writer and a fair business man. He was a frequent contributor to Puck and Judge and other humorous publications of international fame. But he was under the great handicap of ill health. When he came to Hemet the incipient symptoms of the great white plague was apparent and on November 9, 1897, the inexorable summons came. He was only 32 years old when he died.

Mrs. Kerr, assisted by her brother, Frank H. Fowler, now publisher of the Monterey Park Progress, continued the publication of The News for more than two years.

In the spring of 1900, Mrs. Kerr leased the paper to Peter Milliken, who had come to the valley some months previously to teach school. After two years, Mr. Milliken purchased the plant and for 12 years more was its editor and publisher.

The News prospered in a small way and Mr. Milliken was able to make fortunate investments in real estate. He died in Pasadena about 10 years ago.

During most of Mr. Milliken's regime, W. L. Taylor, now in the advertising department of the Santa Monica Outlook, was connected with the paper in the capacity of local editor and advertising solicitor. He served as city treasurer on the side.

Mr. Milliken considered himself permanently located in Hemet but in September, 1911, Robert C. Wall, a Michigan newspaper man, came to Hemet for his health. Wanting something to do, he asked for a price on The News and Mr. Milliken named what he thought would be a prohibitive figure. But Wall accepted the terms and Milliken sold, against his personal inclination.

Mr. Wall lived but four months after coming to Hemet. He died of tuberculosis in January, 1912, and The News experienced for the second time the loss of its proprietor from this dread disease. Mrs. Wall, with the assistance of Mr. Taylor, continued publication of the paper until the end of June, 1912, when it was purchased by Walter A. Potter, who for many years, had been manager of a type foundry in St. Paul, Minnesota.

●

Mr. Potter was an excellent printer but was without editorial experience, so he was soon in communication with John E. King, an old friend who had just retired as publisher of the Daily Sentinel at Missoula, Montana, but whose greatest length of service had been on country weeklies in Iowa and Minnesota.

Mr. King arrived in Hemet the latter part of June, 1912, and in July the partnership of Potter & King was formed. This partnership continued until April 1, 1913, when Mr. Potter sold his half interest to H. H. Monroe of Riverside.

For the next quarter of a century The News was operated by the firm of King & Monroe, but Mr. Monroe never was active in the management of the business and never moved to Hemet. He had owned several papers in Iowa before coming to Riverside in the early eighties and for some years was owner and editor of the Riverside Enterprise.

The managing editorship of the paper passed to Homer D. King, son of the senior proprietor, in December, 1924, when John E. King was named by Governor Friend W. Richardson as state printer. Homer D. King returned to Hemet at that time from Hollywood, where he had been managing editor of the Hollywood Citizen for several years. Previously, he had worked in an editorial capacity on other daily papers in Southern California and Nevada.

Ownership of The News passed wholly to the King family following the death of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe in 1937.

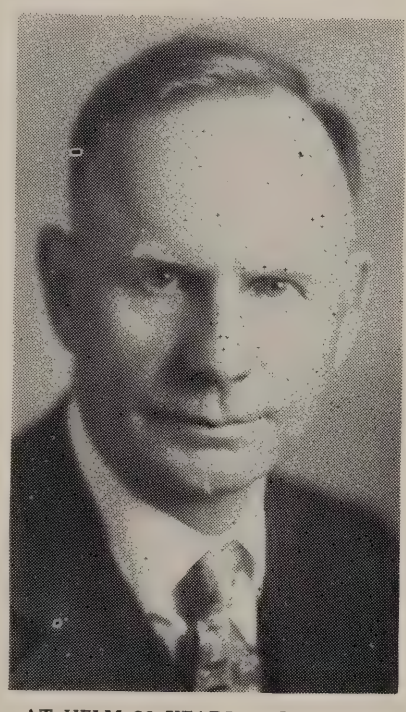
Death claimed John E. King November 26, 1938, and Homer D. King became publisher as well as editor of the paper. James W. Gill, Jr., acquired a partnership interest in the business about 15 years ago and was made business manager. Mr. Gill had previously been employed in the advertising departments of newspapers in Long Beach, Santa Ana and Laguna Beach.

In all the years of its existence, The News has had but one competitor. In 1896, A. J. Visel established the Hemet Independent, but after an indefinite and precarious existence of but five months, it was suspended. Its meager equipment and still more meager subscription list were absorbed by The News.

The Hemet News became widely known during the 26 years when John E. King was at the helm as publisher. His death closed a newspaper career that had stretched across more than half a century.

Born at Laketon, Wabash county, Ind., August 27, 1870, John Emanuel King started his career as a newspaperman when he was not quite 11 years old, serving as printer's apprentice in his native town. He was the son of Daniel and Mary M. King. His paternal ancestors came from England about 1760 and settled in Pennsylvania.

His work as apprentice on the Laketon paper put the indelible stamp of printer's ink on him for the balance of his life. Although he served in many public offices, he was first, last and all the time a newspaperman, keenly alive to the passing scene, with a facile pen that transferred his observations to paper in editorials that were reprinted throughout the nation.



AT HELM 28 YEARS — John E. King, widely known publisher of The News from 1911 until his death in 1938.

At the age of 18, in 1888, he embarked upon his career as a publisher, establishing the Larchwood (Ia.) Leader when that town started to boom with the coming of the railroad. An aroused civic consciousness made the residents of Larchwood yearn for a newspaper of their own, and the young John King quit his job as a printer on the Alton Democrat, talked the merchants into raising a cash bonus of $300 and launched into business with an Acorn press and a few cases of type.

Pickings were slim, but with the tenacity that was to mark his career the balance of his long and useful life, the young publisher met the emergencies that arose, keeping one jump ahead of the C.O.D.'s and giving the people of Larchwood the paper they wanted. At the end of two years he sold the Leader for $1000 and moved on.

After Larchwood, he became part owner of the Rock Rapids (Ia.) Review, with which he was identified until 1892, when he left Iowa for Minnesota and established the Nobles County Democrat at Adrian. From 1901 to 1911 he owned and edited the Red Lake Falls (Minn.) Gazette. In 1911 he went to Missoula, Mont., where he established the Daily Sentinel, which he published until he moved to California and purchased a half interest in The Hemet News.

■

Despite his busy life as a newspaperman, Mr. King found time to devote a large portion of his tireless energy to public service. In Minnesota he was postmaster at Adrian in the Cleveland administration. From 1905 to 1911 he was state librarian of Minnesota under Governor John A. Johnson, and during three years of that time was president of the National Association of State Librarians. He also served two years on the Minnesota state board of equalization.

His leadership was also recognized by his fellow journalists. From 1894 to 1896 he was president of the Southwest Minnesota Editorial association. In 1908 he served as secretary of Governor Johnson's presidential campaign committee with headquarters in Chicago.

The Hemet-San Jacinto Valley will always owe a debt of gratitude to John King, for it was his vision and ceaseless effort that was in a large measure responsible for the establishment and success of the Ramona Outdoor Play. He was one of the small group of men and women who first conceived of the possibilities of a dramatized version of Helen Hunt Jackson's immortal book. Unceasingly he worked for it, bolstering the faltering courage of some of his fellow workers, editorially supporting the idea and exerting his influence with other California editors to secure the vitally necessary publicity.

In many other ways he had served the city he had called home for 26 years. From 1918 to 1924 he was president of the Hemet public library board and was at various times a director of the chamber of commerce and other civic organizations. He was postmaster from 1915 to 1924, and served on the board of directors of the First National bank from 1917 to 1933. From 1918 until he died he was a director and vice president of the Hemet Federal Savings and Loan association (Hemet Home Builders association).

He was a charter member of the Hemet Kiwanis club. During the first World war Mr. King took a leading part in the various Liberty Loan and Red Cross drives.

●

Public service came naturally to him. He was appointed state printer of California by Governor Friend W. Richardson in 1925 and he served for three years in that capacity. During the period 1927-28 he was a member of the state board of education. He was a presidential elector for California in 1932.

A lifelong Democrat, and, as he himself described it, "a Democrat when it was almost against the law in Riverside county," Mr. King sought the congressional nomination of his party in the nineteenth district in 1934. He had also been a candidate for secretary of state in Minnesota in 1904.

His counsel was often sought by leaders in the Democratic party and he had been a political power not only in his congressional district but in the entire state for many years. He was held in high esteem even by political opponents.

His influence in newspaper circles was wide. He was president of the California Newspaper Publishers' association from 1919 to 1922, and was vice president for California of the National Editorial association in 1921.

In 1933 he was appointed receiver for the First National bank of Rialto and the following year the San Bernardino National bank receivership was added to his duties. In 1935 the Victorville First National bank receivership was placed in his care.

■

On the occasion of John E. King's death, the following tribute was written by John Steven McGroarty, Los Angeles Times feature editorial writer and poet laureate of California:

"When a man whom we have long known and admired is taken by death, it is difficult to adjust ourselves to the fact. We seem unable to realize that we shall never behold him again in this world. And especially is this so if he who has departed was a good and true friend whose unflagging friendship had been a support to us upon which we constantly relied.

"It may well be that this failure on our part to realize death is within the compass of Divine Mercy which enables us to bear the blow, and, with the passing of time, to in a measure, recover from it.

"However all this may be, I still cannot realize that John King is dead and that I shall never see him again on this earth. And now that it is all too true, I know, perhaps fully for the first time, his tireless kindness to me and to so many others who trudged the highways and byways of life with his helping arm thrown about us. This is but one of the many things that only death can teach us—a lesson that we learn too late. The years rob us as they pass. And sometime a man will live too long and find himself alone in a lonely world.

"It was not the fate of John King to live too long. The call came to him in the fullness of life when he was at his best. It is a good time and a good way to go. The day's work that it

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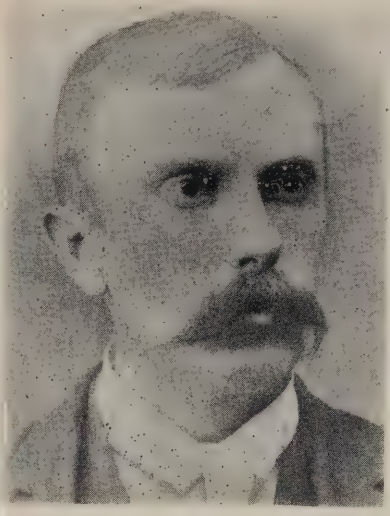

FOUNDERS OF PAPER—Joe P. Kerr, le ft, first publisher and editor of The News and Mrs. Kerr and their baby son, Paul, who is now a professor of geology at Columbia university.

HISTORY OF 67-YEAR-OLD HEMET NEWS

Continued From Preceding Page

was his to do was done and done well before the evening shadows fell and he betook his couch to lie down with night and sleep. Every task he essayed was fulfilled. Like a good workman he finished the job he had to do. And before he quit, not again to return to his task, he left behind him the blueprint of the life he lived that those who follow in his steps shall not stumble or blunder.

"No more than this can be said of the best man that ever lived. Let it be a privilege of mine to say it of John King. No one knew him better than I. No one was ever helped more by him than I. He was kind to everyone, but to none more than to me. I shall miss him more than any words I know can ever express.

"Among the countless friends who knew and loved him, there may be some who do not believe in the immortality of the soul, but I am not among them. It is my unshakable belief that this life is but the prelude to another; and that, therefore, the day of a man's death is greater than the day of his birth. Some other time I shall see and be with John King again, and in the fields of asphodel beside the still waters we shall walk again together."

•

Homer D. King, the present editor and publisher of The News, has been in the newspaper business all his life, first as an apprentice printer and boy reporter under his father and later as a reporter, city editor and managing editor of various California and Nevada dailies and as a correspondent for the Associated Press and eastern metropolitan papers.

Since he took over the editorship of The News in 1925 the paper has won almost every state and national first prize awards for journalistic excellence.

In 1912 The Hemet News had two employees. Today there are 24 full-time employees in the mechanical department and business and editorial offices and 20 other part-time employees, including news correspondents in outlying areas, making a total of 44 people on the regular payroll.

The Hemet News is a member of the Associated Press, the world's greatest news gathering and distributing organization. The franchise has been acquired in anticipation of the time when the fast-growing Hemet-San Jacinto Valley will demand its own daily newspaper.

In the last 20 years many of the public relations duties and much of the civic work normally expected of a newspaper publisher have fallen into the lap of James W. Gill, Jr., the business manager of The News, and Mr. King devotes his time principally to the news and editorial writing. Mr. Gill is a past president of the Ramona Pageant association and has been president of the Hemet Valley Chamber of Commerce, Hemet Kiwanis club and the California Newspaper Advertising Managers association.

Throughout the 67 years of its existence, The Hemet News has "carried the ball" for all of the important community projects and causes.

The News is especially proud of its successful campaign in 1940 which resulted in the building of the Hemet Community hospital. The News not only alerted the chamber of commerce and the city council to the immediate need for hospital facilities here, but the paper, through its columns, raised the money for equipment and furnishing of the building when it was completed. The present Hemet News editor and publisher is the only member of the original hospital board of directors who has been on the board continuously since the hospital opened 20 years ago.

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FIRST WINCHESTER AUTOMOBILE—C. W. Patterson, pioneer Winchester district blacksmith, and his family start out for a Sunday afternoon drive. It's a Reo touring car, 1907 model.

HEMET NAMED A STREET FOR HIM

Hemet's golden anniversary observance this year means a lot to valley pioneer Martin Laursen, 86, of 1030 East Florida avenue.

"My 'visit' to Hemet in 1908 has lasted so long they named a street after me," he smilingly remarks. "So when newcomers or other folks get mixed up and start calling me Larson, or spelling it that way, I just josh them about looking my name up on the street post."

Still working daily, Laursen is widely known to valley residents through his active years as a pioneer house builder, gunsmith, land developer and rancher.

●

Tall and ruggedly built, Laursen drops his other activities when there is a chance to go hiking or hunting in the open country of the valley and mountains.

At the opening of last deer season for example, Laursen eagerly joined a favorite hunting companion, Richard Milholland, and others on a mountain trek.

"It was a do-your-own-walking, real old deer hunt in the mountains," Laursen declared. "And I didn't want or need any extra help, either — because like I told the rest of the party, those mountains weren't any higher or harder to climb around in than when I hunted there before."

But the oldtimer grinned, adding, "Guess they just seemed higher."

A real sportsman, he asserts, "I'll never take any chance shooting at what might be a doe or anything I'm not sure what it is. I've always owned and fired guns, but anybody that's trigger-happy should never even hold one."

His hunting interests were fanned as a boy in Denmark, where he was born. The youngsters there couldn't afford such expensive articles as real guns, but they hunted fat hares for family food, shooting them with home made bows and arrows.

●

Laursen clearly recalls shooting his first deer 63 years ago in northern Minnesota. "It was just a white tail buck, only a two-pointer, but I was as puffed out proud as if he'd been a trophy winner," he remembered. "Got him in the left side and out the right side with a little old single-shot Winchester 32-40. It had about the same power as a 30-30."

He started becoming an expert gunsmith in his youthful days because his father died when Laursen was only three and food was always needed for the family table.

"When I was 11 years old I was using my dad's old muzzle-loading, single-shot, 14-gauge shotgun for rabbits and what we called rough grouse," he recalled. "I could fix any part of that old gun. I still have the little metal powder flask I used with it 75 years ago.

"My father died when I was only three and my mother had us five children to care for, so all had to help and work. But when I was 14, and working out for farmers at $8 a month, board, room and washing, I managed to save a little and talk fast enough to get my first rifle. It cost $8, was a Warrant action, single shot, .32 caliber rim fire, and I figured it was the finest gun any place.

"I was a dead shot on prairie chickens and I slept with that gun, I was so proud of it."

●

Since that time he has handled several hundred guns in his "side trade" as a gunsmith, and owned over 100 at last count, 72 of them being in working condition, rifles, shotguns and pistols. But some of the guns were recently stolen in break-ins at his home, and he's becoming more wary of casual visitors who come to view them.

A Hemet area resident himself for 52 years, he is happy about the city's fiftieth anniversary now under way. "I am glad to be around. I've been a living part of all this Hemet history, and I'm still going."

The first visit to Hemet came when he and his wife decided to look up the Sorkness brothers, Henry and George, after knowing them for many years in North Dakota before they headed for Hemet.

In 1902 he filed on a homestead near White Earth, North Dakota. It was there he met the Sorkness brothers. Six years later he came to visit them and stayed.

In Hemet, Laursen bought 30 acres on Palm avenue in the Fruitvale district. "I bought it from a part-Indian widow, with a house on the property and five acres in apricots and five in peaches," Laursen recalled. "San Jacinto was booming then, and people building at Fruitvale were from San Jacinto."

Continuing to build houses and some business places throughout the valley, Laursen also bought 10 acres in Hemet in 1911.

●

Sitting now in the home he built for himself and his wife in 1916, he reported, "The land I bought was from Florida to Latham avenue. I planted the 10 acres in barley and got a crop of hay off it, too.

"At that time you could stand downtown where Parkhurst's Jewelry store came to be, at the corner of Florida and Harvard, and see the apricot groves on San Jacinto street. There was not a thing in the way, except some small pepper trees W. F. Whittier planted on Florida avenue, and big weeds.

"I had to use a pickaxe to hack them out of my land. The next year I planted half of the 10 acres, subdivided the other half and started putting up buildings on it for sale."

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

The community of Winchester, seven miles southwest of Hemet, back in 1891 had a newspaper called the "Winchester Plowshare and Pruning Hook." Some years later it became the "Winchester Recorder." Those were the days when all the vast territory in this part of what is now Riverside county was awaiting the touch of the plow and the coming of water to bring it into bloom.

In the early 90's Winchester was one of the most important business communities in what is now Riverside county. It had two general merchandise stores, two blacksmith shops, a lumber yard, a creamery, a hotel, a livery stable, a brass band, a baseball team and a lodge hall, in addition to its newspaper.

The Plowshare and Pruning Hook was published by A. A. Brown at Winchester and was "devoted to the best interests of the people of the great San Jacinto Valley." It was, further, "the official organ of the Farmers' Alliance of San Diego county." All this section was then a part of San Diego county.

CONGRATULATIONS HEMET

I Have Been Serving the Hemet Valley for 33 of Your 50 Years

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REMEMBER THIS?—Hemet had two livery stables when the city was incorporated in 1910. This one, at the northeast corner of State street and Latham avenue, was operated by Gilbert and Dawson Spence. Gilbert still lives here. The second livery stable was on Carmalita street and was owned by Frank S. Church.

PIONEER SPENCE FAMILY CAME IN 1889

There are very few people walking around who can claim that their fifth generation children are part of today's society.

Such a person is Hemet's own Mark Spence, 83, a member of one of this city's largest pioneer families.

Visiting him recently from Norwalk were two young boys who are his direct lineal descendants.

These two boys are Joey Marks, four months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marks, and Jimmy Gibson, two and a half months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gibson.

At a recent family reunion were Mark's daughter, Mrs. Jack Smith; Mrs. Robert Gibson (Mrs. Smith's daughter), Mrs. Joseph Marks (Mrs. Gibson's daughter), little Joey, Mrs. Robert Gibson (Mrs. Gibson's daughter-in-law), and little Jimmy, plus Mark's sister, Mrs. Alma Harding, 81, and Mark's brother, Gilbert Spence, 85.

At this unusual and significant event, the five generations of the Spences shared many memories besides taking pride in their longevity.

■

"I used to be a cowboy and ride herds here and in Inglewood. Now I sit and watch the other fellows ride on television," said ever-spry Mark, who distinctly recalls many events in his life besides pointing to the contrasts of his own experience with today's mores.

"All this stuff you see on television about cowboys and shooting is nothing but baloney. On the screen they show how the cowboys are always carrying guns and are quick to draw to shoot someone all the time. Well, heck, it never was like that. Sure, they carried guns but if they wanted to fight, why they would take off their guns and conclude their argument with their fists. I never saw or hear I of a man in such a situation being shot," said Mark.

Hospitality was more of the by-word than gun-slinging in dealing with strangers, according to Mark. When someone would encounter a cowboy outfit on the trail, the stranger would be warmly welcomed, given the free run of the outfit and invited to partake of the food besides being asked to share their sleeping accommodations.

Guns on the trail were only for predatory animals.

"I look at the adult westerns and cowboy shows on television and sometimes I can hardly keep myself from laughing at how they carry on," Mark said. However, television is a major pastime for the Hemet pioneer and he "puts up with it."

■

For other recreation, Mark goes fishing and recently he and Gilbert went down to Oceanside. Their efforts down there resulted in a catch of 15 mackerel.

Alma lives at 251½ North Juanita with Gilbert, and Mark lives directly opposite them. There were originally seven Spence children.

The oldest brother, Herschel, passed away in 1953. He had served in the Spanish-American war during the Philippines campaign.

"During World War I, I was a member of the Hemet home guard. I still recall buying my Craig bolt-action rifle from the U.S. government, at wholesale, for use as a member of the guard company. In Los Angeles this weapon sold for $75 and I paid $5.75 for it and eventually sold it later for $15," Mark said.

On a pension since 1941, Mark spends most of his time fishing, travelling when he can, viewing television, and attending cattle auctions "just to see how things are going nowadays."

He is especially proud of his two fifth-generation offspring and shares his many pleasant memories with Gilbert and Alma.

"I am sorry that today's kids don't get the true story about the early days. The things they see on television are nothing but lies and it bothers me to see how the youngsters will refer to the early days as 'shoot-'em-up' days," he reflected.

Mark worked all over northern California prior to finally returning to Hemet in 1949. He has also resided for some time in San Jacinto.

He recalled that after leaving Hemet in 1917 to drive a hay truck in Inglewood he suffered an accident to his back that has contributed to his partial work disability.

"One day a 350-pound bale of hay fell on me. I drove for six hours without realizing fully what had occurred.

"I went to the doctor and he told me that the subconscious mind had put me in another world and that is why I didn't immediately feel the pain. In other words, I was supposed to have been dead. Ever since, I have had a bad back and a bad neck but otherwise I am in good spirits and health and looking forward to my sixth generation descendant."

c

Seventy years ago there were few people in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley — in fact, where Hemet is now located there was little more than a railroad track winding across virgin valley ground, and near where the former Hemet News office on North Harvard street there was then a windmill and a watering trough for sheep. Sometimes the Indians from the Cahuilla reservation roamed over the valley — still a vast expanse of undeveloped country.

But ask Gilbert Spence, who came with his parents and four brothers and one sister to this community 73 years ago, how it felt to live in such a wild, unconquered land, and he'll chuckle and say, "It was a darn sight safer then than it is now — you didn't have to watch your step lest you be hit by a car and killed."

Mr. Spence, now retired, often remarks jovially, "Well, I've lived here 73 years and intend to live here 73 more. Then if I still like the place, I'll stay. Why, I've seen everything in Hemet, except the sky, grow up and watched Hemet become a thriving town."

■

He remembers those "gay nineties" Fourth of July celebrations when people gathered for miles around for a barbecue. In the afternoon there was a horse race, and what is now Florida avenue was then the race track for saddle ponies. Mr. Spence always rode a horse in the races — but somehow he never had a winner!

When evening came, there would be a big dance that would last until the morning sun appeared in the eastern sky. They did the square dance to the merry tune of a violin or two and several guitars.

Early settlers of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley had little trouble with the Indians as far as Mr. Spence can remember. "The only real difference between an Indian and a white man is that he is dark skinned — they aren't bad. Sure, once in awhile they did kill a few whites, but remember the whites sometimes got in some shooting matches among themselves and the blood ran red. We are all humans and pretty much alike regardless of our coloring," Mr. Spence will philosophically muse out loud. And he ought to know. Indians often came down from the Cahuilla reservation to obtain fruit from his father's orchard.

Even the famous Ramona was a frequent visitor at the Spence home. She helped Mr. Spence's sister, Mrs. Alma Harding, with the cutting of the fruit for drying, and once she gave her an Indian basket.

Sometimes Ramona brought her young son, Condino, who was about Mr. Spence's age, along with her to the Spence home. In later life when Mr. Spence operated the stage line from Hemet to Anza in 1915 and 1916, Condino often accompanied him on his rides. Condino died at Banning a few years ago.

■

The Spence family lived originally in Illinois near a small town called Normal. They heard about sunny California in letters one of the mother's brothers wrote to them. He lived at Cahuilla and wrote so encouragingly about the future of the country that Mr. Spence's father and eldest brother decided to investigate. They came by train in January of 1889 and what they saw pleased them and they sent word back to Illinois that the rest of the family should come to California. Mr. Spence was 15 years old at this time.

His father secured lumber from Temecula and began to erect a frame house on a homestead of 160 acres that spring while the family was temporarily housed in the uncle's home at Cahuilla.

However, before he had completed the house, he was informed that he was building on the Indian reservation land. Nothing remained for him to do but tear down the frame he had already erected and, staking another claim, he moved the lumber to the spot that is known as Old Sulphur Spring ranch where he proceeded to build his new home. The Spences moved into their new home in the fall of 1889. They set out a family orchard of apple trees and raised cattle on their homestead.

When they needed groceries, they rode down to San Jacinto and generally camped at what is now Hemet by the windmill and watering trough.

Young Spence married Nellie Crawford in 1897 and they settled down near Sage. The Crawfords came to Sage in about 1888 from Missouri. A baby boy, Ray, was born at Sage in 1900 to the Spences. Ray is now a Hemet barber shop owner.

After roaming the mountains as a forest ranger for five years, Mr. Spence decided to operate a livery stable in the then growing town of Hemet. So he moved his wife and small son to Hemet where he opened a livery stable with 20 head of horses. His was a thriving business until the automobile industry spelled his doom and he quit about 1917.

SENIOR SPENCES—Left to right, Gilbert Spence, Mrs. Alma Spence Harding and Mark Spence, oldest members of Spence family still living, but there are scores of younger generation Spences.

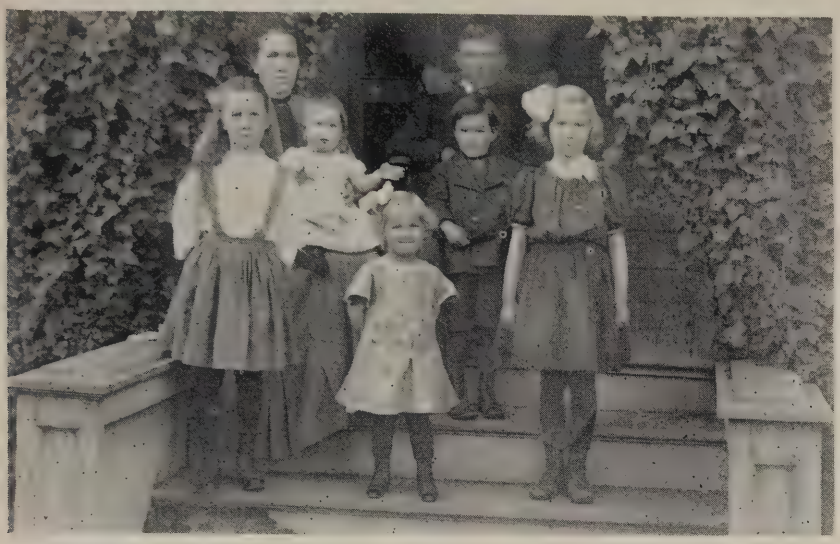
Here in Hemet the second son, Guy, was born in 1904. The first Mrs. Spence died in 1925.

■

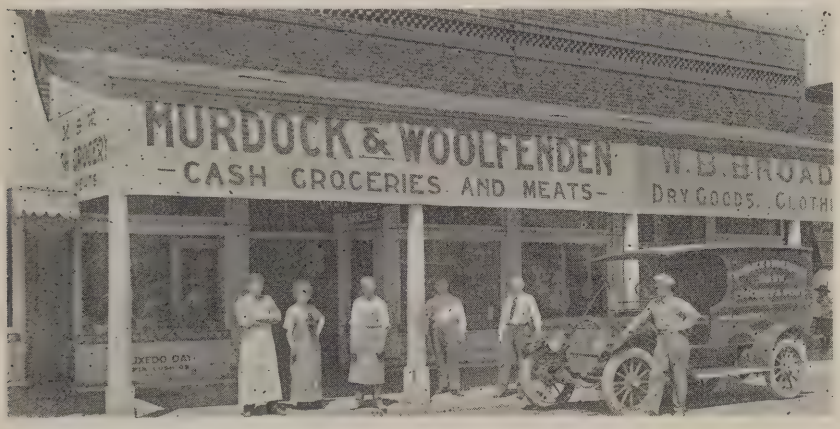
In 1928 Mr. Spence built the La Vista hotel. And speaking of hotels always reminds Mr. Spence of the fire that destroyed the three storied, gabled roof, brick Hotel Hemet which stood on the site of the former Hotel Alessandro. The fire was in 1917, and afterward the bricks from the walls were piled and left on the hotel grounds. Yet the funny thing about it all occurred when the earthquake came on Sunday, April 21, 1918, a year later. People passing the hotel grounds saw the stack of bricks and not knowing about the fire that had happened the year before, concluded erroneously that the hotel was wrecked by the earthquake. Mr. Spence says one still occasionally meets persons who believe that the earthquake of 1918 wrecked the town's hotel.

But that earthquake was a severe one. He recalls a man by the name of Moore who lived on the second floor of the rooming house next to the old Hemet News office. When the earthquake came that Sunday afternoon, Moore was so frightened that he couldn't stand up, so he got down on his hands and knees and crawled down the steps and outside. He saw the brick walls of The News building fall. That was just too much for Moore — next day he caught the first train out of town, and Mr. Spence says he has never heard of him since.

Mr. Spence recalls the earlier earthquake that came Christmas morning, 1899. Although no one was hurt, the two-story rooming house that stood where the Farrar building now stands was wrecked. Heaviest damage was at the then thriving community of Florida (Valle Vista).



FAMILY GROUP—Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Nelson and children shortly after the family came here from the middle west. The four girls are Mary, Grace, Mildred and Harriet. The boy is Thomas, who succeeded his father as president of the Hemet Packing company. Louise, the youngest daughter, and Martin, the youngest son, are not shown, and there is some speculation as to whether they had yet been born. (Si White photo)



1915 FOOD MARKET—This was one of the principal Hemet grocery and meat markets on North Harvard street 45 years ago. The Murdocks and Woolfendens, owners, came here from Beaver, Utah. At extreme left is Ray Brant and at extreme right is Veryn Dillon. Standing between them, left to right, are Miss LaPrell Murdock, Eddie Murdock, Mr. Woolfenden and Charles Murdock. (Photo from Mrs. Veryn Dillon collection)

They Gave Their Lives in Second World War

Forty-six Hemet and San Jacinto area boys were reported killed or missing in action in World War II. They were:

Abraham Arnaiz.

James Bergen, Arthur D. Bloomer, Lloyd W. Burchett.

Robert E. Caldwell, Velgene V. Cates, Harold J. C. Clark.

Darold Epperson, George C. Estrada, Woodrow W. Evans.

Richard Gardner, Jack Gibson.

Raymond Hall, D. L. Heffington, Reginald Helms, Romaldo Helms, Jerrold Hopkins, Charles Sherman Hoyt, Stanley J. Hunter.

Andrew J. Johnson, Kenneth L. Johnson, Robert E. Johnson, Harold Jones.

Jack H. Knight, Keith Krauss.

James Sherman Lewis.

Clovis Pete Manley, Alfred Martinez, William R. McGinnis.

Kenneth N. Peebles, Robert Lee Potter.

Alton H. Ragsdale.

Herbert Melvin Sabin, Lawrence Sliff, Donald Ross Sliff, Mike Soza, Daniel J. Sullivan, Victor V. Sznura.

Junior Taylor, Jean Francis Thacker, Emery Timmons, Augustine Tortes.

Frank Waggoner, Jack Warren, C. A. Waugh, Anthony Wedge.

The Hemet-San Jacinto district sent 1321 men and women into the armed services during World War II.

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Origin of State Park

The interesting story of the birth of an idea was told back in 1942 by A. E. Bottel, then custodian of the San Jacinto Mountain State park. The park is the fruit of that idea.

It all started, Mr. Bottel said, when a dozen prominent Riverside county business and professional leaders gathered around a desk in the office of The Hemet News in 1926.

Making up that group were E. P. Clark, editor of the Riverside Press; A. Heber Winder, Riverside attorney; John E. King, publisher of The Hemet News; County Supervisors John Shaver of San Jacinto and Jack McGregor of Riverside, A. C. Lovekin and T. C. Jameson of Corona, Dr. John B. Weston of Hemet and Mr. Bottel. All these men are now deceased.

The idea was for Riverside county to raise $45,000 to match a similiar sum from the state to purchase 13,000 acres of wilderness forest land in the San Jacinto mountains and dedicate it forever to public recreational use.

The park is now a reality and it extends from the Idyllwild community to and including San Jacinto peak. It was a monument to the men who originated the idea and carried it through.

COUNTY RELIEF IN 1898

An example of the way welfare and relief work was carried on in the early months after Riverside county was organized in 1898 is found in this item taken from the report of a meeting of the board of supervisors.

"J. T. Gordon was placed on the indigent list with an allowance of $10 per month for groceries."

PIONEER HOTEL 248 EAST MAIN
SAN JACINTO
DINING ROOM OPEN
BREAKFAST 7:30 A.M. to 11 A.M.
LUNCH 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.
DINNER 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.
Sunday Dinner Served—Closed Tuesdays

PIONEER FAMILY—This is the William Bruce family about 50 years ago, taken on the lawn of the family home on North Palm avenue. Front row, left to right, Oscar, Faye, William Bruce, Mrs. Jennie Bruce (holding baby Ernest), and Sylvia; top row, left to right, Clifford, Ray, Ethel, Harvey and Roger. Families were large in those days and the Bruces had nine children. (Si White photo)

Land Prices in 1902

G. L. McClatchey, valley pioneer, remembered recently that in 1902 he purchased five acres of full bearing apricot and peach trees in what is now the heart of the Little Lake district for $1000. Open land on the Hemet tract with full water rights sold for $125 an acre at that time.

Do You Remember:

When a family with four or more kids kept its own cow, even inside the city limits of Hemet? It wasn't against the law, either.

When a Republican was a fellow who supported a protective tariff, and Democrats wanted the tariff for revenue only?

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Hemet Woman's club was founded 54 years ago. The first president was Mrs. W. C. Goodhue.

The first meeting to form the club was held at the home of Mrs. J. C. Belton and was called by her and by Mrs. P. N. Myers and Mrs. M. F. Rayen. As a result of the meeting, "The Hemet Woman's club" was organized with 12 charter members. Photographs of the first 12 members have a place of honor in the present clubhouse. They were Mrs. W. C. Goodhue, Mrs. J. C. Belton, Mrs. Linnie Gore, Mrs. P. N. Myers, Mrs. Emmie L. Cole, Mrs. Clara Hyer, Mrs. Margaret Dukes, Mrs. Helen M. Pierce, Mrs. Ellen A. Clarke and Mrs. Minnie F. Rayen.

Presidents of the club since its organization have been:

Mrs. W. C. Goodhue, elected in 1906; Mrs. J. S. Daniels, 1907; Mrs. H. S. Dukes, 1908, 1909, 1910; Mrs. S. A. Minnich, 1911; Mrs. W. C. Goodhue, 1912; Mrs. A. B. Eadie, 1913; Mrs. John E King, 1914; Mrs. E. A. Davis, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918; Mrs. John M. Clayton and Mrs. Guy B. Smith, 1919; Mrs. Guy B. Smith, 1920; Mrs. Harry Hilliard, 1921; Mrs. H. B. Jones, 1922; Mrs. George W. Hunt, 1923, 1924; Mrs. Oliver P. Ensley and Mrs. W. H. Pawson, 1925; Mrs. John Stewart and Mrs. L. G. Brubaker, 1926; Mrs. George W. Hunt, 1927; Mrs. Walter A. Carr, 1928; Mrs. Harry O. Searl, 1929, 1930; Mrs. John Stewart, 1931; Mrs. E. C. Garrison, 1932; Mrs. F. K. Strasser, 1933; Mrs. J. H. Remington, 1934; Mrs. Charles W. Howard, 1935, 1936; Mrs. Roy C. Cage, 1937; Mrs. Clark McEuen, 1938; Mrs. George F. Pabst, 1939; Mrs. F. W. Kenney, 1940; Mrs. Genevieve Moon, 1941 and 1944; Mrs. Noah F. Chormicle, 1942; Mrs. Gladys P. Shoemaker, 1943; Mrs. Rollie Barger, 1945; Mrs. Charles Deegan, 1946; Mrs. Geoffrey Fricker, 1947; Mrs. Frank Headley, 1948-1949; Mrs. Maurice Perry, 1950; Mrs. Hubert Buxton, 1951; Miss Edith Culter, 1952; and Mrs. Carlos C. Houghton, 1953-1955; Mrs. LeRoy Cate, 1955-1957; Mrs. Vincent Hoopes, 1958 and Mrs. William Wiegard, 1959. Mrs. Frank Headley is the incoming president and will take office in October.

Seven past presidents of the Hemet Woman's club have also served as president of the Riverside County Federation of Women's Clubs. They are: Mrs. W. W. Amos, 1916-1917; Mrs. Clark McEuen, 1917-1919; Mrs. E. A. Davis, 1920-1921; Mrs. W. H. Pawson, 1926-1927; Mrs. John Stewart, 1933-1935; Mrs. Harry O. Searl, 1941-1943 and Mrs. Gladys Shoemaker, 1949-1951.

Do You Remember:

When dogs were named Rover, Spot, Tighe and Bowser?

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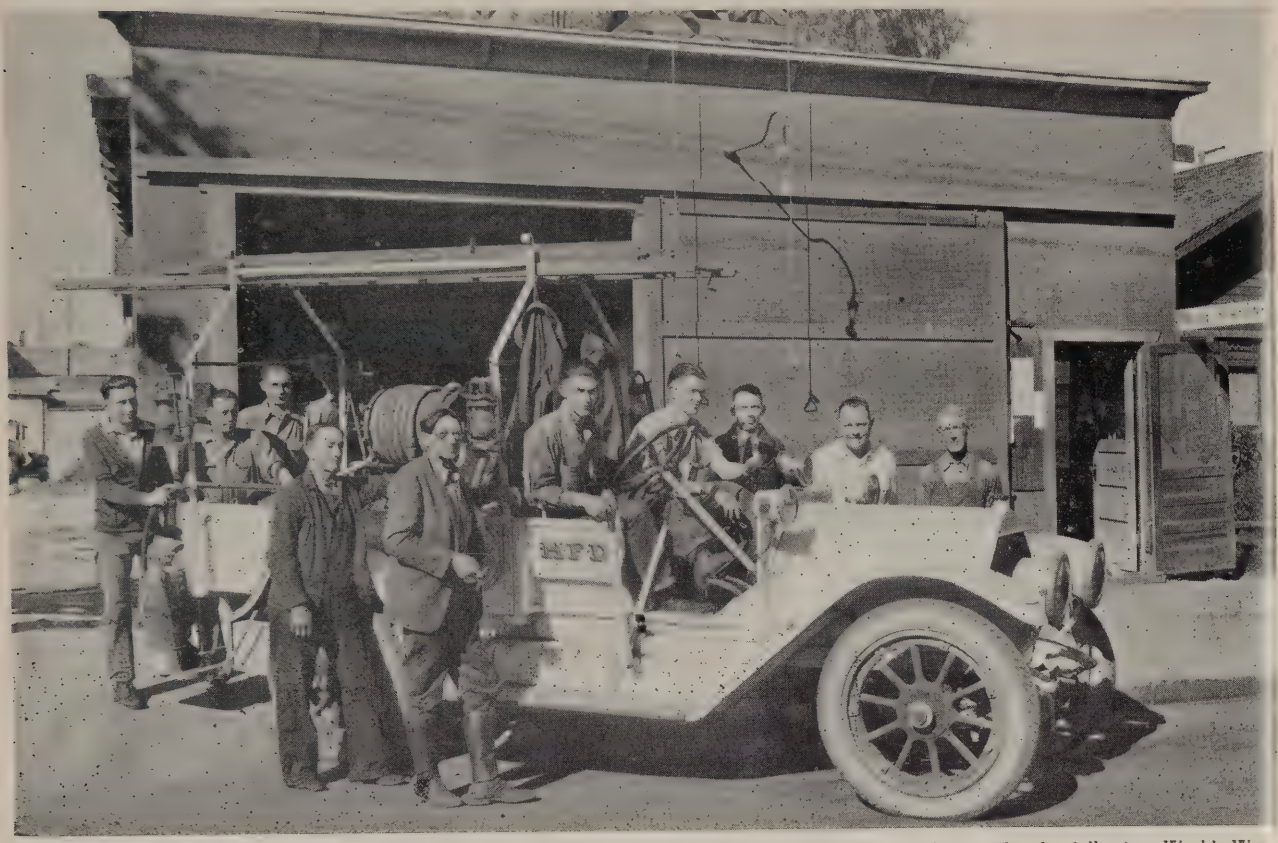
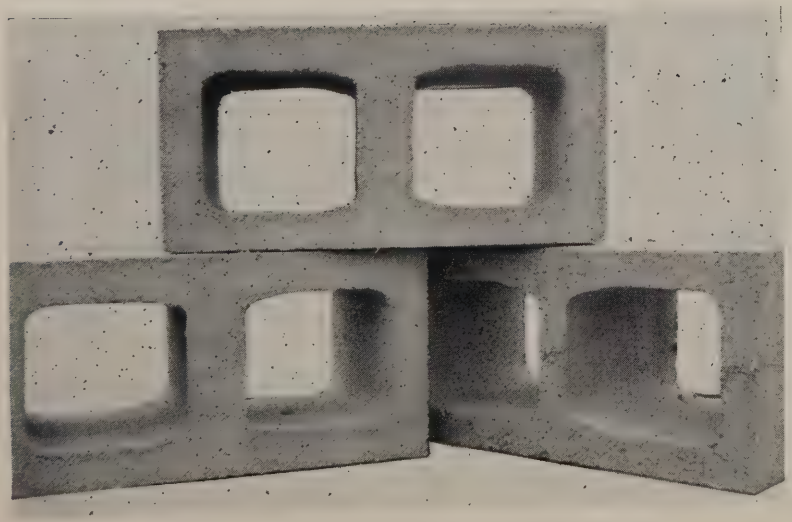


FIRE DEPARTMENT—In and around the fire truck which was their pride and joy during and immediately following World War I are members of the Hemet volunteer fire department in front of the station. In the picture are Albert Spence (now assistant chief of the department), Ray North, Charles Roberts, N. E. Walker, J. H. Spencer (chief when photo was taken and now lifetime honorary chief), D. J. Fleming (present chief), Eldon Fleming, W. O. Pallesen, Glen Brubaker and Mart Morse. The old Carmalita street fire station shown will soon be only a memory. The fire department is now in its modern new quarters in the civic center.

Hollostone Building Materials

COMPLETE BUILDERS SUPPLIES



- FLAGSTONE
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1906 S. J. BASEBALL TEAM—This team was the pride and joy of San Jacinto fans back in 1906. Left to right, the men shown are: Top row, Omar Tune, Ray Hannah, Donald Jacobs and Clifford Tune; center row, Joe Sallee, Lew Clark and Al Tune; front row, Roche Hurt and George Straw.

VOSBURG HOTEL IN SAN JACINTO SINCE '86

Known from San Diego's "Harbor of the Sun" to the "Valley of the Seven Moons" near the Washington border for the comfort and hospitality it offers is San Jacinto's pioneer Vosburg hotel. It has been in the Vosburg family for three generations. Now operating it are Mr. and Mrs. William R. Vosburg, who can trace the family's ownership of the hotel back to 1886.

In that year Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Farmer opened the Farmer House on the spot where the dining room of the hotel now is located.

The Farmer House was only a rooming house; it did not serve meals, but it was the beginning of a well-known tradition of hospitality that the Vosburg proudly continues today.

Mr. and Mrs. Farmer came to this country from England in 1884 as part of the large migration of English folk who arrived in this valley about that time.

They first owned property north of the city, near the San Jacinto river, but, as Mr. Vosburg tells it, after being flooded out a couple of times, they moved "into town," or what was to become a town in 1888 when San Jacinto incorporated.

The Farmer House opened its doors in 1886.

Four years later, the old two-story building was removed and the original section of what was to become the Vosburg hotel was constructed.

This building remained untouched until 1912 when the first addition to the hotel was made. It included the present lobby of the hotel.

A fire swept the kitchen in 1916 and called for a general reconstruction of the hotel.

It was decided to include an enlarged dining room in the project. Both rooms still stand as they were constructed then.

Following these major changes, the hotel began enlarging on property toward the east until it reached its present boundaries at the intersection of Ramona boulevard and San Jacinto street, extending a full block along Ramona.

Eight rooms were added in 1924, four more in 1928 and the last unit of 16 rooms was begun in 1929, just preceding the "crash." There was some question whether to continue building of proposed units, Mr. Vosburg related, but despite economic conditions, the construction went ahead and was finished in 1930.

Since then the only addition has been the library.

The name Farmer House was changed to Farmer hotel after 1903, and in 1912, after William Gates Vosburg had married the daughter of the Farmers and taken over the management of the hotel, it became the Vosburg hotel.

Mr. Vosburg commented that his father probably would not have stayed in San Jacinto after first arriving here in 1900 had he had enough money for a return trip to Los Angeles.

Instead, he went to work for John Garbani, at the Garbani creamery as a cheesemaker, his trade. Vosburg later bought out Garbani, then sold the business prior to marrying the Farmers' daughter in 1904.

William R. Vosburg took over the management of the hotel in 1935. He and his two sisters, Mrs. Maury Coleman of San Jacinto, and Mrs. Don Nelson of Hemet, jointly own the property.

He has remained as manager except for a period during World War II when he was in the air corps and Mrs. Nelson managed the business.

The Vosburg attracts the steady type of clientele, as evidenced by its longest single customer, Edward Poorman, who has occupied the same suite of rooms since 1916, Mr. Vosburg said.

Employees find the Vosburg a good place to work, apparently, as evidenced by the number of long-time employees. Heading the list in years of service is Candida Garbani, with 50 years of hotel work at the Vosburg to her credit.

The frame and plaster building has 52 rooms available for occupancy. It employs 20 to 25 persons.

Do You Remember:

When everybody fed their pets with scraps from the table, a bone thrown in occasionally for the pooch and a hunk of liver for the cat? The butcher would give you the liver for free.

When you got your first car that would make it up Box Springs grade in high gear, and how you bragged about it when you reached home?

ENGLISH COLONY

More than 50 years ago a visitor here remarked that the most interesting people in the valley were the Indians and the English. He said it to his English friends, members of the J. H. Botterell family and was referring to the customs which they and their fellow colonists from the British Isles had brought with them.

A few of the English came in the 90's, but most of them had joined parties organized in London from 1904 to 1906 and brought to Hemet for settlement.

The newcomers were lonely. They had exchanged the coziness of England for the wide and comparatively wild spaces of Southern California, and the people about them were strangers. Many were quite young and suffered the homesickness of youth. It was natural that they should group together and carry on the traditions that they had learned in the land of their birth.

There were weekly teas at the Botterell home. Here the young people would gather to talk, sing and play. They sang to the accompaniment of an orchestra in which Frank Beecher and William Botterell played violins, Harry Botterell the cello, and Miss May Botterell the piano.

Their sports were brought from England. They introduced a game, new to the valley, called tennis.

Sometimes the colonists would observe a holiday by driving to Oceanside, a trip that required two days each way, with a stop at Fallbrook.

"We were often called the mad Englishmen," says Miss Annie E. Botterell.

But life was no easy matter for the newcomers. The city of Hemet was in its childhood, and the outlying country, sparsely settled, had for the most part not been under cultivation. Many of the settlers came with no farming experience, and all were facing unfamiliar conditions. Some remained only a very short time, but others adapted themselves and made the valley their permanent home.

Among those still residing in or near Hemet, are the Misses May and Annie E. Botterell. They were brought here by their parents from Cornwall, England, in 1895.

The original English colony is also represented by C. M. Smyth and Geoffrey Fricker — both of whom have remained in the valley.

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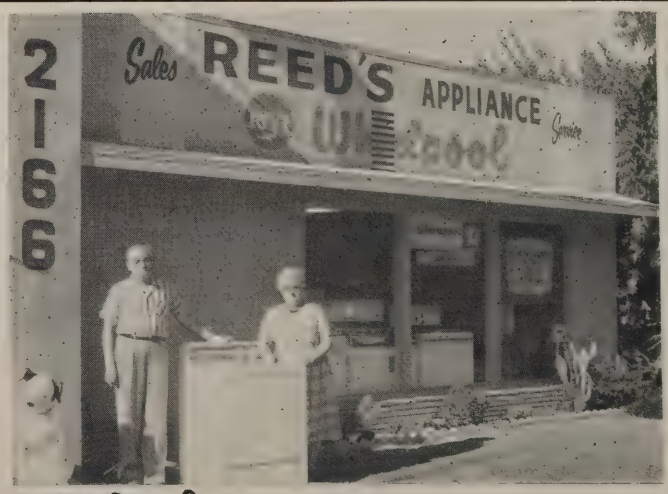
GLEN SCOLES 44263 E. Florida
OLive 8-2989 HEMET



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REED'S APPLIANCE-SERVICE
WE SERVICE ALL MAKES OF WASHERS AUTHORIZED SALES and SERVICE
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HEMET'S FIRST BANK—This is an interior view of the old Bank of Hemet which was first located on Harvard street adjoining the former Hemet News office. It was later the location of Lake Hemet Water company. (Photo from H. H. Spaulding collection)

QUAKE DAMAGE—These photos showing 1899 earthquake damage in San Jacinto were taken by Charles Van Fleet. Top, view of Main street, and, bottom, the old Mea triangle building, later Young's grocery.

BIG DAY IN HEMET—First balloon ascension and parachute jump in Hemet, July 4, 1912. The balloon went aloft from the corner of North Harvard street and Latham avenue. (Si White photo)

SHOW PLACE—Home of Martin Meier, pioneer lumber yard owner, on North State street. House is still standing. Note Victorian architecture.

FIRST IRRIGATION DITCH

The first irrigation ditch in what is now the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley was constructed in 1871 by Samuel V. Tripp — the man who, as justice of the peace, presided at the trial of Sam Temple, charged with killing an Indian named Juan Diego, the Alessandro in Helen Hunt Jackson's "Ramona" story.

For the Best in Western Wear

THE
WESTERN CORRAL
1736 E. STETSON HEMET
Western Wear for Men and Women
COMPLETE SADDLERY DEPARTMENT
INDIAN JEWELRY

THEN . . .
THE HARDWARE STORE IN ANY COMMUNITY WAS THE CENTER OF TOWN . . . AND A SHOPPING CENTER FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

NOW . . .
WE'RE NOT IN THE CENTER OF TOWN . . . BUT WE'RE STILL A FAMILY SHOPPING CENTER FOR EVERYTHING FROM TOOLS TO LOVELY WEDDING GIFTS

Hemet HARDWARE

WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS
PLENTY OF PAVED FREE PARKING
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Greetings---
to the
City of Hemet
on its
Fiftieth Anniversary

We Are Proud to Be a
Part of This Great Valley and Serve
Its Growers

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VALLEY

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CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES

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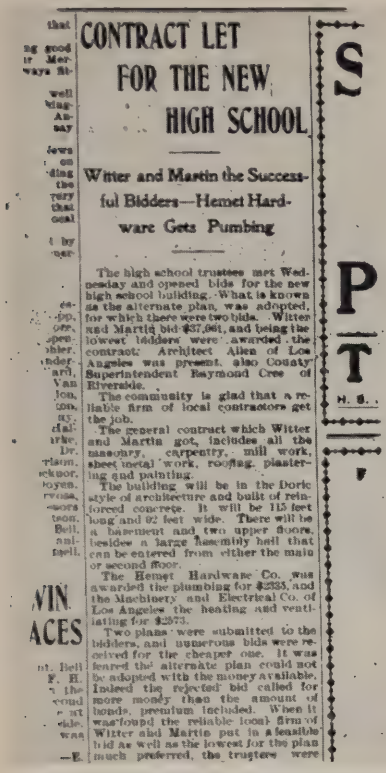
Opposite the Santa Fe Depot | **James Minor T.W.X. 8789** | **Telephone San Jacinto OL 8-3373**



CONTRACT LET FOR THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Witter and Martin the Successful Bidders—Hemet Hardware Gets Pumbing

The high school trustees met Wednesday and opened bids for the new high school building. What is known as the alternate plan, was adopted, for which there were two bids. Witter and Martin bid $37,061, and being the lowest bidders were awarded the contract. Architect Allen of Los Angeles was present, also County Superintendent Raymond Cree of Riverside.

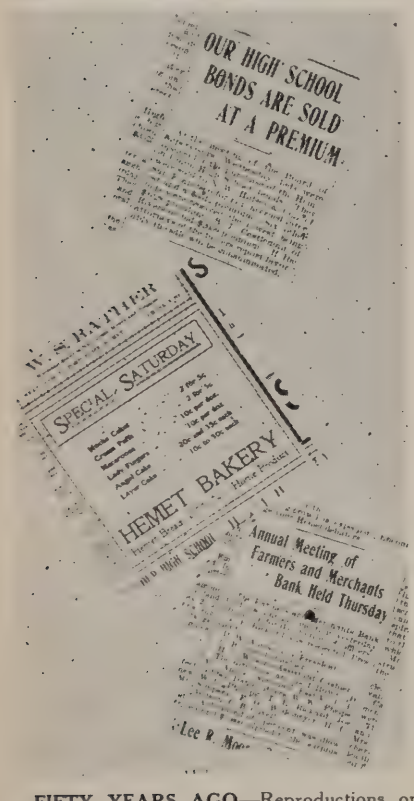
The community is glad that a reliable firm of local contractors get the job.

The general contract which Witter and Martin got, includes all the masonry, carpentry, mill work, sheet metal work, roofing, plastering and painting.

The building will be in the Doric style of architecture and built of reinforced concrete. It will be 115 feet long and 92 feet wide. There will be a basement and two upper floors, besides a large assembly hall that can be entered from either the main or second floor.

The Hemet Hardware Co. was awarded the plumbing for $2235, and the Machinery and Electrical Co. of Los Angeles the heating and ventilating for $2273.

Two plans were submitted to the bidders, and numerous bids were received for the cheaper one. It was feared the alternate plan could not be adopted with the money available. Indeed the rejected bid called for more money than the amount of bonds, premium included. When it was found the reliable local firm of Witter and Martin put in a feasible bid as well as the lowest for the plan much preferred, the trustees were



FIFTY YEARS AGO—Reproductions on this page are from 1910 issues of The Hemet News.

Do You Remember:

When in most Southern California towns and cities you could buy a bowl of chili beans or a hamburger for a nickel at lunch wagons on the downtown streets. A tamale cost a dime.

When you had to crank your car to start it? It was estimated that Henry Ford saved this country 40,000 broken arms the first year the Model T's came out with self-starters.

When there was no mechanical windshield wipers for automobiles? Smart motorists carried in the car a cake of soap which they wiped on their windshields when the rains came. It probably helped a little, but not much.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY BACK IN 1893

The Late A. G. Hull, pioneer resident of the Winchester district and constable there for more than 40 years, had in his possession several copies of the weekly Riverside Reflex, published in 1893 by J. P. Baumgartner, later the owner of the Santa Ana Register.

One of the issues contained an advertisement for "Camp Idyllwilde" in Strawberry valley. The spelling has since been changed to Idyllwild. G. B. Hannahs was owner of the camp and the postoffice address was Rayneta, a name unfamiliar in present-day Riverside county. The advertisement said that stage and freight wagons left San Jacinto for "Camp Idyllwilde" Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

The principal store in Riverside in 1893 was that of G. Rouse and company. It is still there after more than half a century.

Riverside county had just been organized. Among leading citizens who sponsored the formation of the new county were D. G. Mitchell, Frank A. Miller, John McLaren, Bradford Morse and O. A. Smith. Mr. Mitchell was from Perris and the first county treasurer. Mr. McLaren was from San Jacinto and was made undersheriff. Mr. Miller was owner of the Glenwood hotel in Riverside which he later made famous as the Mission Inn. J. S. Noyes was the first judge of the superior court.

E. H. Gruwell was the first recorder, J. N. Anderson of Perris was the first district attorney, F. W. Swope of San Jacinto and Winchester was the first sheriff, A. W. Condee was the first county clerk, George N. Frank was the first public administrator, George M. Parsons of Wildomar was the first county surveyor, W. S. Ruby of Riverside was the first county coroner, Lyman Gregory was the first superintendent of schools, G. W. Fox was the first county auditor and A. B. McCormick of San Jacinto was the first county tax collector.

FIFTY YEARS AGO—Members of the Baraca class of the First Baptist church of Hemet posed for this picture in 1910. In the photograph are: Back row—Earl Ballou, Carroll Fuller, Guy Ankrum. Second row from back—Robert Coffey, Ernest Hoskin, James Freeman, Ernest Brown, Mr. Pachoe, Carl Cavanah. Third row from back—Guy Paquette, Noah Dixon, Leon Newton (with hat), George Doan, Floyd Gilmore, Veryn Dillon. Fourth row from back—Allan Hoskin, Earl Cavanah, W. C. Henry, Earl Sexton, William Martin. Seated in front—Edward P. Johnson. Two of the young men in the picture grew up to become county supervisors, Floyd Gilmore in Riverside county and Earl Cavanah in Imperial county. (Photo from collection of Mrs. William Martin)

'RAINMAKER' HATFIELD WAS HERE

It was almost 50 years ago that Charles M. Hatfield, the "rainmaker," made his famous but controversial visit to Hemet under the terms of a contract which was to pay him $5000 if he produced a specified amount of rainfall within a specified period of time.

The "rainmaker's" visit to Hemet corresponded with our arrival here, and when we got off the train at the little red depot at the corner of Harvard street and Latham avenue it had been raining heavily for 24 hours and the unpaved streets were ankle-deep in mud.

Hatfield always said that his "rainmaking" process was quite simple. He just erected two or more 24-foot towers and then set out pans of a certain chemical. The chemical fumes, he said, floated up into the air and mixed with the natural elements, and it just naturally started raining.

But Hatfield had trouble in Hemet. He built his towers, but the rain started before he had time to set out his pans of chemicals at the top of his towers.

The ranchers and business men who had guaranteed payment of the Hatfield contract contended that he was not entitled to his $5000 because the rain had started before his equipment was in operation. There was a compromise, and Hatfield settled for $2500.

Today any mention of Hatfield's experience here in 1911 rings a bell for Gerald Searl, Diamond valley grain farmer. He remembers that he went along with his father traveling by horse and buggy from farm to farm in the Hemet-Winchester area to raise the $5000 guarantee that brought the "rainmaker" here.

But Hatfield's greatest triumph was some years later. He flooded nearly the entire County of San Diego, washed out 119 bridges and caused millions of dollars in crop and property damage. He barely escaped with his life when irate farmers organized a posse to look for him.

To top it all, the San Diego city council and county supervisors refused to pay him the $10,000 fee called for in his contract. When damage suits started pouring in the city and county officials maintained the flood was an act of God. They contended that if they paid Hatfield for starting the big rain, the city and county governments would be liable.

And when Hatfield threatened to sue for his fee, they stopped him cold.

"Fine," they told him, "go ahead and sue. But be sure to state in the complaint that you started the flood. The farmers then will sue you for millions of dollars and not us."

Hatfield is quoted as saying later in life that during the period from 1902 to 1932 he successfully brought rain to 42 drought-stricken areas from Honduras to the Klondike.

He said his best rain, next to the 1916 flood in San Diego county, came when he accepted the challenge of farmers at Crow's Landing in Stanislaus county. They agreed to give him $1500 for 12 inches of rain. Two days after he began his hocuspocus the rain started and it continued for four days and nights.

The precipitation was up to about 10 inches when the Crow's Landing farmers wanted to call the whole thing off. It was raining so hard they couldn't work their fields and the crops were washed away. But Hatfield kept his bargain and continued operating for two more days until he hit the 12-inch mark. The farmers were happy to see him leave.

HEMET'S FIRST MAYOR

Hemet's first mayor was T. S. Brown, pioneer real estate and insurance man. He was chosen for that position at the first meeting of the city's first board of trustees January 24, 1910. The minutes of that meeting said:

"The first meeting of trustees of the City of Hemet, County of Riverside, California, was held in the office of T. S. Brown on Harvard street at 7:30 o'clock Monday evening the 24th day of January, 1910. Present: Messrs. Brown, Clayton, Frazier, Isle and Witter. Each of the above named gentlemen having been duly notified of their election to the office of city trustee by a certificate setting forth that fact received by them from the county clerk of Riverside county did at this meeting qualify for the position of city trustee by taking, before a notary public, the oath of office set forth in the aforementioned certificate of the county clerk and filing the same with the city clerk of the City of Hemet.

"By common consent City Clerk Hamilton called the meeting to order and acted as chairman until the board could elect one of their number to that office.

"On coming to order nominations for chairman of the board of trustees were declared to be in order and Trustee Frazier placed Trustee Brown in nomination. Nomination was seconded by Trustee Witter and Trustee Brown was elected chairman by the unanimous vote of the board.

"Mr. Brown took the chair and asked for the further pleasure of the board."

MAY THE NEXT 50 YEARS BE AS PROGRESSIVE AS THE LAST

THRIFT SHOP FURNITURE

1207 E. Florida Hemet

Open 9:30 to 9 p.m. Thurs., Fri., Sat.

Free Parking at Rear of Store

HAVE FUN! IMPROVE YOUR HOME! SAVE MONEY!

Do-it-Yourself!

YES! NOW YOU CAN BLACKTOP YOUR OWN DRIVEWAY!

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POST OFFICE BOX 728 SAN JACINTO

EARLIEST OLD-TIMERS—Seven of the real pioneers of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley who attended the Pioneer day picnic at the Heme Farmers Fair three years ago are shown above. Left to right are Martin Collins, who came to the valley in 1868; the late Mrs. Mary Wright, wh had resided here 73 years; Mrs. Victoria Brooke, who has lived here her entire lifetime; J. M. Frazier, third mayor of Hemet; Mrs. Mary Worde Bannister, who was married in San Jacinto in 1897; Mrs. Ophelia Yates, who came here before the turn of the century, and Frank Lamb, wh was born in this valley in 1879.

it soaks in

it stays put

it pays off!

50 YEARS OF PROGRESS . . .

ON THE FARM HAVE PROVED THE EFFICIENCY OF SIDEDRESS WATER RUNS OF BREA AQUA AMMONIA AND AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (8-24-0)

Just Call Us and We'll Come Out and Show You How Brea Aqua Solutions Can Make More Money for You

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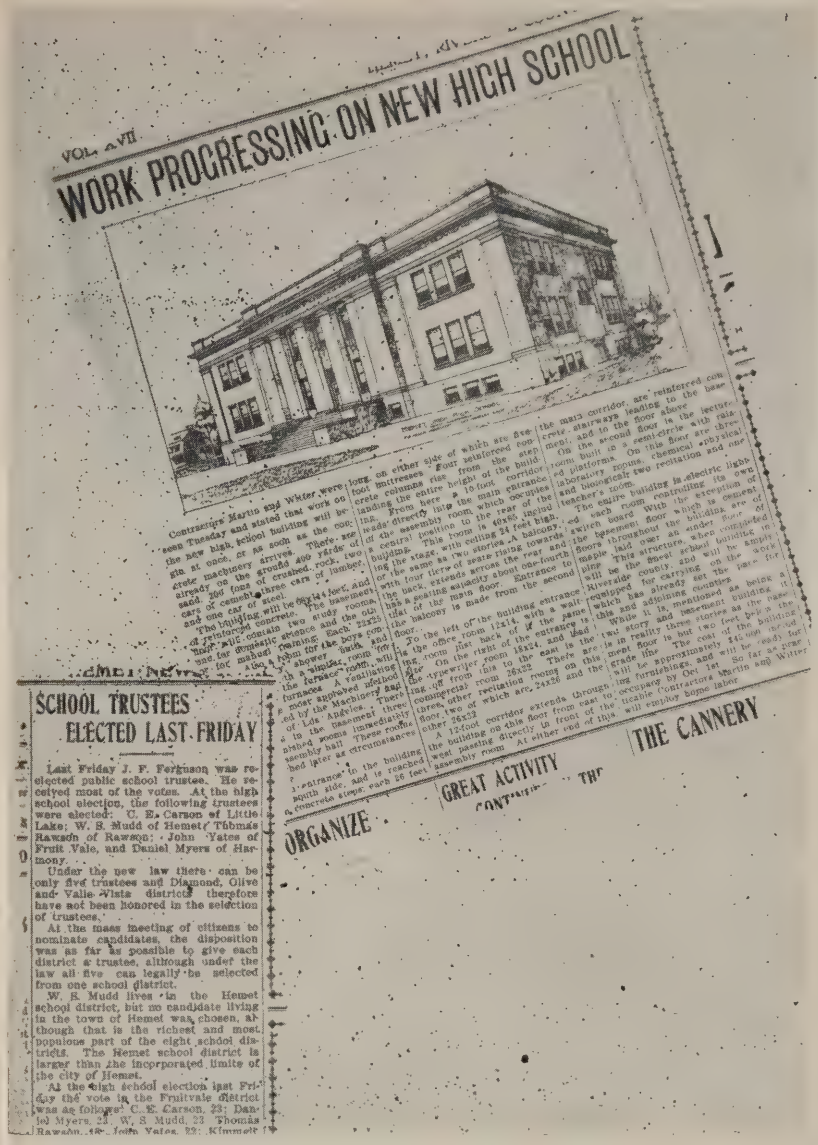

VOL. VII

WORK PROGRESSING ON NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Contractor Martin and Writer were busy on the new high school building will be ... sign at once, or as soon ... crete machinery arrived ... already on the ground ... said four cars of lumber, ... and one car of steel. ... of concrete. The ... The finishing ... contain two and ... one for domestic ... use for manual ... also a shower ... The furnace ... the furnace room ... cedar covered ... of Los Angeles. ... in the basement ... second floor ... assembly hall ... bed lower as ... entrance to the ... south side, and ... a concrete steps, ... foot mattresses ... crete columns rise ... landing the entire ... leads directly into ... central position ... the stage, with ... four tiers of ... the same as ... has a seating ... that of the ... the balcony ... floor. ... the office room ... the rear of ... the typewriter ... the building ... commercial ... other two ... floor, 24x32 ... 12-foot ... west ... assembly room. ... four reinforced ... the main corridor, ... from the ... height of the ... corridor ... entrance ... 16 feet ... which ... 45x85, ... ceiling ... 24 feet ... seating ... rear and ... stories ... Entrance ... second ... 12x14, ... the ... room ... 15x24, ... this ... corridor ... 26x32 ... which ... assembly room ... four reinforced ... the main corridor, are reinforced con... creting, stairways leading ... the second floor above the ... mezzanine floor. On this ... built in semi-circle with ... platforms. On this floor ... laboratory rooms, each ... teacher's room. ... equips two recitation and one ... room. ... Heating is electric light... with ceiling ... and switch board ... basement floor ... throughout the ... floors ... maple ... will be ... equipped ... which has ... this ... While it ... grade floor ... reality is ... approximately ... cost will be ... The two ... cubic feet ... will be ... Contractor ... will enjoy ...

SCHOOL TRUSTEES ELECTED LAST FRIDAY

Last Friday J. F. Ferguson was re-elected public school trustee. He received most of the votes. At the high school election, the following trustees were elected: C. E. Carson of Little Lake; W. S. Mudd of Hemet; Thomas Rawadh of Rawson; John Yates of Fruit Vale, and Daniel Myers of Harmony.

Under the new law there can be only five trustees and Diamond, Olive and Valle Vista districts therefore have not been honored in the selection of trustees.

At the mass meeting of citizens to nominate candidates, the disposition was as far as possible to give each district a trustee, although under the law all five can legally be selected from one school district.

W. S. Mudd lives in the Hemet school district, but no candidate living in the town of Hemet was chosen, although that is the richest and most populous part of the eight school districts. The Hemet school district is larger than the incorporated limits of the city of Hemet.

At the high school election last Friday the vote in the Fruitvale district was as follows: C. E. Carson, 23; Daniel Myers, 23; W. S. Mudd, 23; Thomas Rawadh, 48; John Yates, 22; Kimmell ...

ORGANIZE ... GREAT ACTIVITY ... THE CANNERY

FIFTY YEARS AGO—The two news articles reproduced above are from 1910 issues of The Hemet News. It is noteworthy that the contract price of the high school building was $40,000. It now serves as the senior high school.

JACK AND COLLIE
MASSIMINO'S
VALLEY BAKERY
211 E. FLORIDA HEMET
Baked Goods Fresh Daily
TRY OUR FAMOUS
ITALIAN BREAD

SPROUSE - REITZ
VARIETY STORES
R. J. BAKER, Manager
225 E. Florida Hemet

QUALITY
DAIRY PRODUCTS
Cash & Carry
or
Home Delivery
PHONE
OL 4-4724 — OL 4-6674
CENTRAL DAIRY FARM
Ramona Blvd. San Jacinto

El Rancho Furniture Co.
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Phone OLive 4-4433
WHERE GOOD FURNITURE IS NOT EXPENSIVE

A LITTLE OUT OF THE WAY
— BUT —
A LOT LESS TO PAY
Open Daily 8:30 to 5:30, Friday 9 to 9
Anytime by Appointment

The Russian Invasion

Aviation History Made In Valley Cow Pasture

It was just breaking day the morning of July 14, 1937, when the Russian non-stop flyers made history by their surprise landing here after their trip from Moscow by way of the North Pole.

There seems to be no record, in this country at least, of the present whereabouts or activities of any of the members of the three-man crew of the big red airplane that was in the air 62 hours and 17 minutes before dropping into Earl Smith's cow pasture three miles northwest of town.

For a day, at least, this was the most famous cow pasture in America. The Russian plane landed at 6:20 a.m. after the longest non-stop flight in aviation history.

The huge red-winged monoplane, commanded by Mikhail Gromoff, 38-year-old Soviet air hero, and carrying Andrei Yumasheff as navigator and Sergi Danilin as co-pilot, had circled the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley for 15 minutes before attempting a landing in the rough and treacherous pasture.

The fliers put the plane down here after deciding against attempting a landing at March Field, army aviation base, 25 miles distant. They had flown over San Diego before daylight but were prevented by fog from landing there.

The first person to reach the plane was Walter Harvey of San Jacinto, who was working nearby. The fliers greeted him enthusiastically when he approached but because they could speak no English had difficulty in making themselves understood.

Gromoff, however, handed Harvey a slip of paper on which had been written in English: "Please wire Moscow."

The flight commander next took from the plane a packet of papers which appeared to be credentials. Major Yumasheff, the navigator, produced a map and asked Harvey to indicate their location.

Harvey went to the nearest telephone and called March Field while the Russians remained with their plane. By that time scores of Hemet and San Jacinto people were arriving at the emergency landing field. Russell McCoy, Hemet business man, took the Russians to March Field by automobile.

The fliers, according to Harvey, did not appear exhausted when they stepped from the plane. They threw their arms around him and pounded his back enthusiastically.

"All three of them talked at once," said Harvey, "apparently not immediately realizing that I couldn't understand them."

Although gasoline was running in a small stream from a leak in one of the wing tanks the fliers did not indicate that their landing was a forced one. They were fully aware that they had established a new record.

Within an hour roads leading to the field were lined with automobiles and before noon more than 4000 people from all parts of Southern California had visited the plane. The stream of people continued throughout the afternoon and early evening.

Smith, owner of the pasture, established a toll gate and collected 25 cents from each person admitted. His income from this source is reported to have been as high as $200 an hour. Thousands of persons avoided payment of the toll charge by climbing fences.

First woman to reach the plane was Mrs. D. J. Shaw, who witnessed the landing from her home nearby. Henry Sandy, Hemet city employee, was the first man with whom the fliers were able to converse. Although Sandy could not speak the Russian language he and Yumasheff were able to understand each other in German.

According to Harvey, the fliers made two attempts to come down, succeeding on the second. The big ship was handled with great dexterity when it hit the rough surface of the pasture, he said. The plane used 24,975 gallons of fuel on its flight.

Distance covered by the flight was unofficially estimated at 6262 miles.

Long distance telephone and telegraph traffic in Hemet and San Jacinto was the heaviest in many years. The one Western Union wire leading out of the valley was in use continuously by newspaper correspondents. Operators at Hemet, San Jacinto and March Field did not clean up the pile of press messages until late in the evening. Long distance telephone wires were used by newspaper representatives to supplement their telegraphic reports. Local telephone traffic established a new record and operators at both the Hemet and San Jacinto exchanges were required to work to the limit of their endurance.

1907 POPULATION

In 1907 The Hemet News estimated the population of Hemet and the Hemet tract at 1000, but said that within a radius of 10 to 12 miles there were 4000 people.

HEMET GROUP IN 1912—Standing, left to right, Mrs. Ella King, Rev. William Pearce Mrs. Mary R. A. Brown, Deborah Bartlett Dillon, A. A. Lord, John Isle, Mrs. John Isle, An E. Foster and Theodore Foster. Sitting, left to right, Mrs. Margaret McKay, Mrs. William Pearce Mrs. A. A. Lord and Mrs. G. E. Glodfelty. Picture taken at old T. B. Foster home, now the site of the new Hemet Civic center. Photo from Mrs. Veryn Dillon Collection.

BESSIE WILSON, NURSE

One of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley's best known pioneer women is Bessie Wilson, veteran registered nurse, who, in her long career, has probably been in attendance at the births of more than 1000 babies in this section of Riverside county. And she is herself a native of the Hemet area.

She is the former Bessie Milholland and was born at Valle Vista.

She graduated from nursing school in 1913 and for a quarter of a century she nursed entirely in the homes of her patients because this valley had no hospital.

But from 1937 to 1943, she operated her own maternity hospital in her home. She recalls that in 1942, 142 babies were born there.

More than 50 per cent of a recent Hemet high school graduating class were "Bessie's babies."

Do You Remember:

When you cranked both your telephone and your automobile?

When the height of juvenile delinquency was to smoke a Cubeb cigarette, if you lived in town, or a corn-silk cigarette if you lived on a farm?

When mothers prescribed sassafras tea in the spring?

Do You Remember:

When families had "hired girls" instead of "maids or "housekeepers"?

Television & Radio Service

We Service All Makes

Authorized Franchise Dealer for

RCA VICTOR BIG COLOR TV

HOBBY KITS & SUPPLIES

HO-TRAINS — PLANES — BOATS

ROBINSON'S TV & Hobby Shop

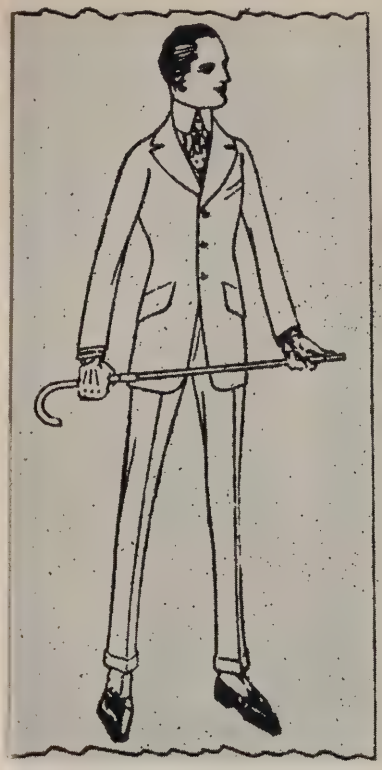
322 E. Florida Hemet OL 8-3370

"Many Happy Returns" Hemet, on Your 50th Birthday . . .

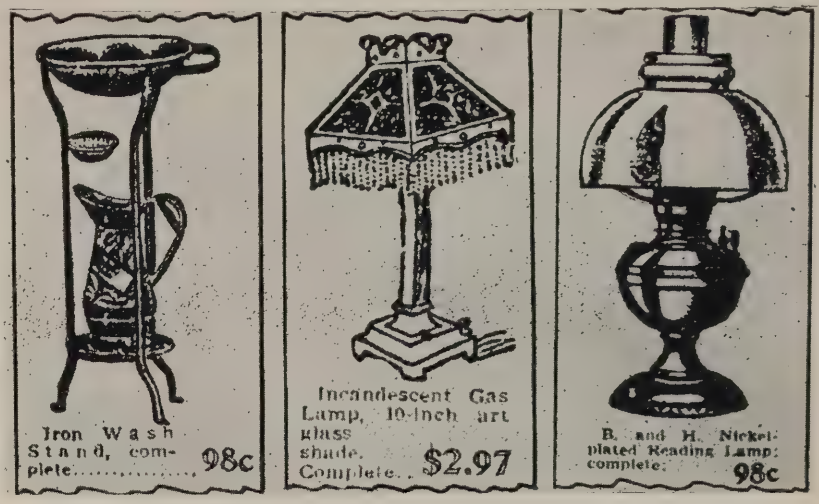
From Another "Old Timer," the JOHNSON CHEVROLET & OLDSMOBILE CO.

Your Chevrolet and Oldsmobile Dealer

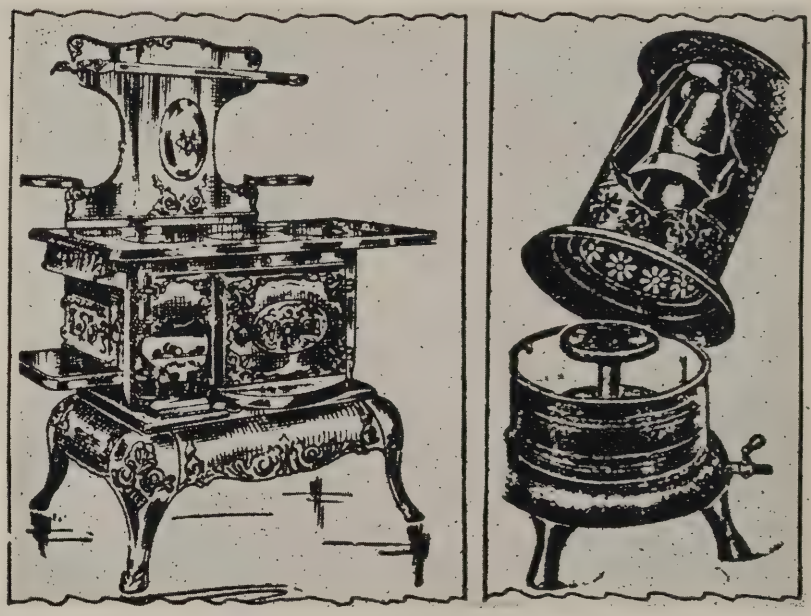
308 W. FLORIDA HEMET



A SUIT FOR $14.50— This illustration from a 1917 newspaper ad shows what the well-dressed man was wearing.



FOR THE NEW HOUSE—These little items were picked up by housewives who shopped from the advertisements back in 1910.



REMEMBER THESE?—Above are a $16.75 nickel range and a $5 gas heater which were advertised as recently as 1910.

LADIES' UNDERWEAR—This was a very daring illustration in a department store newspaper ad back in 1910.

FOR CHRISTMAS—For $2.25 extra you could get an attachment that would permit you to make your own records.

YES, WE HAD AN EARTHQUAKE—The above pictures of destruction left by Hemet-San Jacinto Valley's 1918 Sunday afternoon earthquake were taken by the late Lawrence E. Appleford of 704 D street, San Bernardino, and sent to The Hemet News editor by Mrs. Ollie A. Snodgrass of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. No one was killed. There was an earlier earthquake disaster here Christmas morning, 1899.

HEMET FARMERS FAIR ANNUAL EVENT

Second only to the Ramona Outdoor Play as an annual Hemet community event is the Hemet Farmers Fair. Held in late summer or early fall on its magnificent fairgrounds almost in the heart of the city, the Hemet Farmers Fair is sponsored by the Forty-sixth District Agricultural association. It is one of the many county and district fairs in California that are supported in large part by the state.

The value of the fairgrounds property, land, buildings and equipment today is in excess of a million dollars.

In addition to exhibit buildings, auditoriums and office facilities, a large California National Guard armory is also on the property and is available for public use.

The Hemet fairgrounds property is said to be the cleanest in California. It is beautifully landscaped and has large areas given over to green lawns. Other large areas are asphalt-covered.

The fairgrounds is a community center the year around and is available for horse shows, dog shows (including one of the largest in California each year), dances, lectures, concerts, midget car races and many other events. One large area is turned over to a beautiful athletic field used for much of the city's summer recreation program.

The fair itself attracts thousands of Southern California visitors who come to inspect the agricultural, educational, scientific, livestock and commercial displays. The premium book lists prizes totalling more than $30,000 to be distributed among exhibitors each year. The fair is operated by a board of directors appointed by the governor, each for a four-year term.

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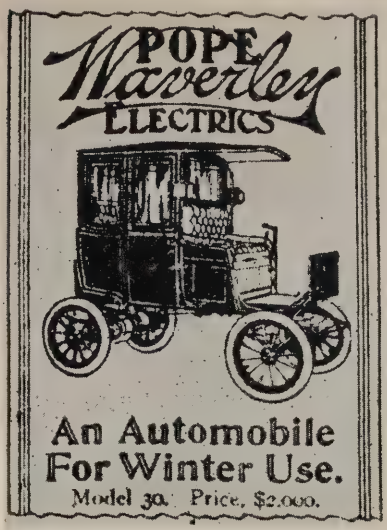

THE VERY LATEST—You traveled first class if you owned one of these electric automobiles back in 1904.

ADVERTISED IN 1900—Persons afflicted with pulmonary diseases found new hope when they read this newspaper ad.

RIBBONS AND BOWS—This flower garden hat was designed for American women in 1910.

OPEN AIR JOB—This Chevrolet was of the vintage of 1910. The manufacturers boasted it would climb many hills in high gear. Hemet didn't have a Chevrolet agency until about 1915.

A BARGAIN IN 1902—As a newspaper advertisement the one shown above was a real eye-catcher—and it's our guess that it caught your eye just now.

Do You Remember:

When motorists bragged about the virtues of such automobiles as the Paige, the Marmon, the Winton, the Maxwell, the Stutz Bearcat, the Hupmobile, the Chalmers, the Reo or the Pierce-Arrow?

When a bar was a saloon and not a cocktail lounge?

When indoor toilets had chains that were pulled?

When newspaper comics were comics and not whodunits or outer space adventurer serials?

When the only thing the country needed was a good five-cent cigar, according to Vice President Marshall?

When the only place you could see an uncovered bosom was in the National Geographic magazine? Even the Police Gazette didn't go that far. Have you seen a show in a Las Vegas hotel theater recently?

When a Sears Roebuck catalog served a dual purpose?

When John E. Wherrell was a hard-working president of the Riverside County Farm bureau back in 1919? Later he was an influential Republican political worker in this county and a close associate of M. J. (Mike) Westerfield, the man responsible for the election of John Phillips, Leonard Difani, Nelson S. Dilworth and others to their first terms in the state legislature. Mike Westerfield was to Riverside county what Artie Samish has been to the State of California in more recent years.

1915 CHAMPIONS—This was Hemet's championship Inland Empire league semi-professional baseball team in 1915. The first two players standing at left are not identified; others standing, left to right, are Elmer Richey, John Tortes, Roy Taylor, Alec Tortes and Raphael Tortes; player kneeling at left is unidentified but the others are Frank Gazzola, team manager, center, and Amos Churchill, who played first base. The three Tortes brothers were natives of the Santa Rosa Indian reservation and were first cousins of "Chief" Jack Myers, famous catcher for the New York Giants when that team was managed by John McGraw. Myers was half of the famous New York battery of Myers and Christy Mathewson. Myers is now employed in Southern California by the U. S. Bureau of Indian affairs. He was born on the Santa Rosa reservation in the San Jacinto mountains and his family name was Tortes.

GUESS WHO?—At this time in his life he thought he might be a veterinarian. It is Loyd Wright, now one of California's best known and most successful lawyers. Instead of being a dog doctor he became president of the California Bar association, the American Bar association and the International Bar association. His father was the late Dr. L. A. Wright, pioneer San Jacinto and Hemet drug store owner and a former Riverside county agent for the U. S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. In the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Loyd Wright is regarded as the No. 1 home-town boy who made good.

Mail Service Started Here in 1887

Norman Wilson Hemet's Seventh Postmaster

Hemet has had seven postmasters since the postoffice was established here in the fall of 1887, soon after the completion of the Southern California railroad (now the Santa Fe). Their names and terms of office follow:

Miss Ora Warren, 1887-1896.
William Bradford, 1896-1907.
Claude O. Gillett, 1907-1916.
John E. King, 1916-1924.
Nelson S. Dilworth, 1924-1936.
Sidney C. Moon, 1936 to 1956.
Norman Wilson, 1956 to present.

The postoffice is very much the center of community activity. No one is immune from its sphere of influence. It is the clearing-house of the thought of the nation, and almost any other governmental function could be curtailed with less injury to the people.

The postoffice embraces much of the history and development of any town. The postoffice receipts measure with fairly exact degree the growth and development of a community, and the history of the Hemet postoffice is largely a history of Hemet.

•

Miss Ora Warren was appointed postmaster by President Grover Cleveland. The first postoffice was established in a little brick house at the corner of Carmalita street and Kimball avenue, on the lot where the Methodist parsonage now stands. About two years later it was moved into a building on the west side of Harvard street, near Latham. After some years it went to a building further south on Harvard and remained there until the building was damaged in the earthquake of April, 1918. For several months thereafter, it was maintained in temporary quarters in a building on Carmalita street north of Florida. In November of that year the office was moved to the east side of Harvard street a few doors south of the Lake Hemet Water company office. It remained there until 1952 when it was moved to its present location in a new building at the northwest corner of Harvard and Kimball.

Miss Warren was succeeded in 1896 by William Bradford, one of the early settlers of the valley. During his occupancy the town grew rapidly, and in 1900 the office was advanced to third class.

C. O. Gillett succeeded to the office in 1907, and during the nine years of his incumbency the business of the office grew to such an extent that on July 1, 1914, it was advanced to the second class and became the office of third importance in Riverside county. Rural free delivery was established during Mr. Gillett's regime.

•

In 1916 John E. King, then publisher of The Hemet News, was appointed by President Wilson and he served a little more than eight years. During his administration city delivery was established.

With the advent of the Harding administration, Nelson S. Dilworth, who had been a rural carrier for nine years, was made postmaster in March, 1924.

Sidney C. Moon was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. Norman Wilson succeeded Mr. Moon four years ago. Mr. Wilson had been a clerk in the office more than 20 years.

Do You Remember:

When the old control road was in use between Oak Cliff and what is now Mountain Center? You went up on the even hours and down on the odd ones. When you went up the radiator boiled and when you came down the brakes smoked.

FIRST . . .
IN FINE FOOD
STOP AT THE
TOWN HOUSE CAFE
REASONABLE PRICES
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OLD MOUNTAIN NURSERY
VALLEY GROWN PLANTS
1 Mile East of San Jacinto Ave. on Shaver St.
C. LACEY, Owner-Mgr.
Ph. OL 4-2666

Horse-and-Buggy Doctors of Valley's Pioneer Days

Greatly beloved men in the section of Riverside county that now includes Hemet, San Jacinto and Winchester a half century and more ago were a number of genial, faithful and comforting country doctors whose pioneering accomplishments in the fields of medicine and surgery have become legend.

Many people now living here remember Dr. Joseph E. Blackshaw, the old-school homeopathic physician who died in 1936 at the age of 81. He had practiced 51 years in this valley. His office was first in San Jacinto but was moved later to Hemet.

He is remembered for his long black beard, his black frock coat, his mysterious black case and some of his highly original medical theories.

Old-timers still living here have a mental picture of him in his quaint black electric coupe, with its high top, and its glass front window (they didn't call them windshields then) which made him look like a picture in a frame. People said he resembled an old-fashioned crayon portrait.

But Dr. Blackshaw is fondly remembered also for his long and faithful service, his sturdiness that inspired confidence, and his kind and generous heart.

Dr. R. J. Roulston was another of the old-timers. His functions were those of veterinary and undertaker, for he did not have a medical degree. Had he qualified to practice in medicine he might have scored a notable success there, too. He was well versed in medicine and possessed the natural gifts of physician and surgeon.

The doctor was an accommodating undertaker. In the time when no ambulance was on hand for sudden need he obligingly conveyed an appendicitis case, due for an emergency operation and hospital care, to Riverside in his hearse. He sometimes remarked that the hearse might be the convenient vehicle for the return trip.

●

Dr. C. S. Dickson, county coroner, first practiced medicine at Winchester for ten years preceding his election as coroner in 1893.

But of his familiarity with the Hemet and San Jacinto section in early days the doctor, in an interview with the editor of The News a few years before his death, let his mind travel to his Winchester experience.

There were lean years in those days. One fall I started out to collect some of the $1500 due me, and the first day managed to get $1 on account, and on the second day gathered 35 cents' worth of vegetables from another patient. Money was a scarce article, and for seven years there were almost complete failures of crops. But we managed to get along, and there was more neighborliness than is found nowadays.

Hemet was not on the map in 1890, but San Jacinto was quite a town, although not as large as Winchester, and there was considerable rivalry between Winchester and San Jacinto. Had the dreams of the Pleasant Valley Irrigation district been realized there might have been a different geographic arrangement of towns, for it was on the water to be furnished by this company that Winchester based its hopes of future greatness."

■

For over 50 years, Dr. F. K. Strasser listened to the heartbeat of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley through the figurative stethoscope of his profession. In his office at Hemet, 17 years ago, he looked back upon those intimate memories of a community and its people that only a physician can have.

Dr. Strasser came to San Jacinto in the spring of 1901, and he remained to work and play with the people of this area while the twentieth century unfolded. He was in attendance at the birth of 1125 babies, without once losing a mother.

The debris of the earthquake of 1899 had not yet all been cleared away when Dr. Strasser opened his office in rented quarters next to the Lockwood hotel in San Jacinto. He had been located in Los Angeles, and, while making a trip through Mexico, had received word from a friend that there were good opportunities to be found in Coyote valley. On his way to the latter place, he had stopped in San Jacinto and had found the country and climate so appealing that he later returned to settle.

San Jacinto was a busy community. Martin Meier was in the lumber business, selling lumber brought from the Sherman mill in the San Jacinto mountains. It was hauled down by Bruce Morris and Monte Webster. Maurice Goodstein was the proprietor of a dry goods store, and Hards and Daggett ran a general merchandise establishment. Two grocery stores were operated by C. L. Emerson and Steve Mead, while John Shaver, already county supervisor, maintained a hardware store. Will Tripp and Jack Hopkins were in the meat-market business. W. F. Kiel was the local baker and Ed Dunham ran the livery stable.

E. G. Munn divided his time between publishing the San Jacinto Register, serving as postmaster and operating a real estate agency. Chester Trip ran the all-important blacksmith shop. The bank was owned by a Mr. Waters of Los Angeles, with A. W. Wright as cashier.

In Hemet there was a grist mill and a hotel, and little else but a scattering of homes.

Memories of the early years formed a brilliant pattern in Dr. Strasser's conversation when the editor of The News last talked to him a few years before his death. He bought the first property to change hands in San Jacinto after the earthquake in 1899 — a lot on San Jacinto street just east of the present Vosburg hotel. He planted the first eucalyptus grove in the valley on Central avenue (Hollywood drive), put down wells and built a reservoir. Part of this grove may still be seen on the ranch owned until recently by Harry Hofmann.

Land in that area, which was known as the artesian belt, could be purchased for $20 an acre in those days, Dr. Strasser said.

●

Transportation was the major problem for a medical man, but it was one in which Dr. Strasser took a natural delight because of his love for horses. He made his calls in various types of horse-drawn conveyances, driving up to the homes of his patients in a buggy, a buckboard or perhaps even a racing sulky.

Some of the trips were hazardous, to say the least. There was one wild journey to Idyllwild at the time of the burning of the Sherman lumber mill, about 1910, when a high wind was toppling trees across the road on which Dr. Strasser's buggy was traveling. Jim Kelly, an old miner who was employed by the doctor on his ranch property, and who was driving the horse, had to get out occasionally and move the fallen trees before the two men could proceed.

But they got to their destination in time to save the lives of three men who had been badly burned in the fire.

Dr. Strasser bought the first Oldsmobile to be used in the valley. These early vehicles were apt to break down at any moment, and horses were often used to pull them into town. There were few roads which could be traveled by automobile.

Nevertheless, when Dr. Strasser visited a patient in his shiny Oldsmobile, the sight itself was almost enough to cure the ailment.

●

Later Hemet medical men much beloved by their patients included Dr. Paul E. Simonds, Dr. Andrew B. Eadie and Dr. H. O. Miller. Dr. Miller and his wife, Nancy, met tragic deaths 30 years ago when a night fire destroyed their two-story home at the corner of Florida avenue and San Jacinto street. Mrs. Miller was the first "Marda" in the Ramona Outdoor Play.

San Jacinto physicians before the turn of the century included Dr. T. J. Toland and Dr. John Rainey. Drs. Arnold and Noble practiced in San Jacinto for some years after 1900.

Not a pioneer, but a hard-working, trusted and extremely busy country doctor of comparatively recent times was the well-remembered Leslie J. Clark, who began his practice here immediately after completing his medical education in 1923. He died in 1952 from a coronary attack brought on by overwork. Always an enthusiastic civic leader, Dr. Clark was largely responsible for the success of the campaign to build the present Hemet Community hospital.

Do You Remember:

When the American Legion post had a drum and bugle corps that marched in the old Armistice day parades? Not many of them, probably, could take much pavement pounding today.

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THAT CANDY SHOPPE

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1903 STUDENT BODY—Above picture from Lewis Rawson collection shows the entire Hemet high school student body in 1903. Mr. Rawson was a member of the class of 1905. Top row, left to right—Edward W. Carmichael, Harvey H. Myers, George W. Morse, Edward Tripp, Earl M. Johnson. Second row—Elmer L. Daniels, Walter Church, Charles J. Taylor, Roger W. Bruce, Charles E. Crumrine, Percy H. Prior, Ray Bruce. Third row—Lillian G. Rice, Estelle Kriesbaum, Gertrude Rives, Mary E. Thomas, Viola G. Brubaker, Professor McCullough, H. Harrison Spaulding, Merton Stout. Fourth row—Olive G. Bledsoe, Vinnie R. Stout, Rose E. Tripp, Lois E. Proebstel, Dovie Glodfelty, Blanche E. Stump, Alta Carmichael, Maud Haslam, Mrs. Alice Isle, Janet Hardie.

THE STORY OF WATER IN THE VALLEY

The story of water — and the need for more and more of it — is a never ending one here and elsewhere in Southern California.

When the great Hemet dam was completed in the San Jacinto mountains in about 1883 it was expected that water from Lake Hemet, from mountain streams and from the underground basin would be sufficient to supply the irrigation and domestic needs of what is now the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley far beyond the foreseeable future.

But none of the men and women living here then could imagine that in 1960 the City of Hemet would have a population of in excess of 5000 and that 35,000 would be living in the valley and surrounding mountain areas.

It was not until the early 1930's that valley farmers, businessmen and public officials awoke to the knowledge that a "water shortage" was just around the corner.

The great Metropolitan Water district of Southern California had been formed to bring water from the Colorado river to the Southland's coastal plain, and a great aqueduct across the desert and through the mountains was being built to transport that water.

The route of the aqueduct was across the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley after it emerged from a 14-mile tunnel under the mountains northeast of San Jacinto.

■

The aqueduct was a new source of supplementary water that could be tapped for use in this valley if the people were willing to underwrite the cost of making the connection.

First, they voted overwhelmingly to join the Metropolitan Water district; second, they voted to form the Eastern Municipal Water district as a subsidiary of E.M.W.D., and third, they passed, by an overwhelming vote, a $4,300,000 bond issue to finance the E.M.W.D. construction program which made possible the distribution of Colorado river water for irrigation and domestic use to an original area of 125,000 acres in and around Hemet, San Jacinto, Perris, Lakeview, Nuevo and Moreno.

It was the original purpose of the E.M.W.D. to wholesale water to existing private, mutual and municipal water companies and to several improvement districts organized or to be organized within the E.M.W.D.

It was believed then that the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley and most of Southern California would have an ample water supply as long as the great Colorado river flowed and emptied into the Gulf of California.

But even then the future population growth and agricultural expansion in the Southland was not visualized by the people or their water engineers.

Again Southern California was faced with an oncoming water shortage. The situation was aggravated by two cycles of dry years when rainfall was less than half of average.

●

So a great new search for another source of additional water for the rich agricultural empire south of the Tehachapis was started.

Northern California had a vast surplus of water in its great rivers that emptied into the Pacific ocean. One of these was the Feather river, apparently the most accessible for the Southland to tap with another great aqueduct system that would cost in excess of a billion dollars. But what was a billion dollars compared to the need for water in a parched land that was almost doubling its population every decade?

So today Southern California is embarking on another great crusade for water, perhaps the greatest and most costly in the history of the world.

It is a campaign for the adoption of a state constitutional amendment which will make possible the success of the "California water plan" for the transporting of surplus northern water from the counties of origin to the counties that need it most.

The "California water plan" will be on the November general election ballot this year and in every Southern California community money is being raised and committees are being formed to put it over in spite of indifference or bitter opposition by people of northern California who cannot see why they should be expected to be a "bucket brigade" to serve the Southland from continuing drought.

■

In the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Charles S. Howard, executive of the Howard Rose company, has been appointed general chairman for the water campaign here. Fred Jennings of Riverside is county chairman. The campaign has the support of the directors of the Eastern Municipal Water district here and the Western Municipal Water district which serves the area around Riverside as a subsidiary of the Metropolitan Water district.

So the quest for water is a continuing one, and who can say that half a century from now Southern California will not be looking for still another source to supplement its rainfall and its Colorado and Feather river supplies?

Do You Remember:

When almost everybody bought groceries on credit? You didn't need a credit card and you paid your bill once a month, and when you paid it the grocer rewarded you for your promptness with a gift of hard candy for the kids. Several of Hemet's credit grocery store owners went out of business in the early depression days. One of them lived a dozen years after closing his store and still had $3000 on his books when he died.

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HOURS: LUNCH 12-2
DINNER, OPEN 5 P.M.

Reimers Dining Room

BETWEEN HEMET & SAN JACINTO PH. OL 8-2979

CLASS OF 1901—This was the San Jacinto high school graduation class picture in 1901. Top row, Professor E. B. Oakley, deceased; Will Vail, deceased. Middle row, Porta Clark, now of Visalia; Ruth Worden (now Mrs. G. L. McClatchey), Hemet; Ada Hogue, still living in San Jacinto. Lower row, Lillian Whalen, present address unknown; Bessie Munn, deceased.

VALLEY LANDMARKS AND MEMORIES

The most distinctive landmark for the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley is bulky Mt. San Jacinto, of snow-road crest supported by legended Tahquitz Peak on the south. The vista which closes in upon the lane formed by the gnarled old pepper trees that hedge East Florida avenue of Hemet is scarcely to be matched in all California. In spring the sunset glow, pouring through the valley as through a funnel, floods the San Jacinto crests and peaks and the white parapets of the San Bernardino range beyond with a mystic yellow.

The course of the valley is marked by the Five Sisters — small detached buttes stationed, in no order, upon the valley floor and outskirts. Polly butte, of the jagged terraces and hills to the south of Hemet, by legend was a pilgrimage destination for the Indians bent upon clan and tribal rites.

●

Castile canyon of the Soboba section in the foothills country out of San Jacinto was once noted for its remnants of a vineyard installed there by the Indian old man Victorianna, who died only 50 years back, aged 130. Families of the early settlers picked grapes from these vines without objection by the owner. They were the prized fruit of the valley. The place was chosen by him as the best home in the valley, but the shelter and the unfailing stream of water recommended it to the white man for ranching purposes. Little to be seen indicates the old Indian burial ground on the mesa towards Valle Vista. But upturned soil has uncovered rude knives, feathers, arrowheads and skeletons, in proof of long-buried dead. In a cave near this ancient cemetery, the old Indians, according to the memory of valley pioneers, held annual dances, signified by paint and trappings.

A spot once much frequented by visitors is the fern carpeted canyon on the northern side of the valley known as "Frenchman's Garden" or "Frenchman's canyon." Frank Roberts was the old man's name, although he was known simply as "The Old Frenchman" and "French Frank." He was living in his retreat when the settlers came to the valley in the early seventies. "French Frank" had been a sailor for years, had traveled over the world, was an entertaining talker, and spoke several languages. His descriptions of French life were most entertaining, but little of his history entered into them. Visitors to his canyon home were always graciously received and were laden with the products of his garden.

Here the old man had made his paradise; with a stone cabin whose doors swung on wooden hinges oiled with good will. Here amid fruits and vegetables watered by a spring, bowered by grapevines and maiden-hair ferns, he lived in his secluded grotto, a lover of mankind and nature and a friend to all who came his way. What his previous life had been none can say but tributes to his mountainside home and his gracious heart persist in valley annals.

●

There is no marker upon the tract of pasture west of San Jacinto where the Russian aviators landed about 23 years ago. By strange coincidence, however, they landed upon soil once used by a Russian — the only valley spot related to Russia which could receive them. Here, by generosity of the land-holder Pico family, San Jacinto's first storekeeper, the Siberian refugee commonly known as Prokko Akimo, had grazed a few cattle.

Akimo told many thrilling stories of Russian life and the sufferings, privations and tortures of a Siberian exile. He was known far and wide as a man of sterling honesty. During the Civil war, while he was janitor in Louis Jacob's bank at San Bernardino, a raid on the bank was feared and he was intrusted with the bank funds.

He buried them and for 10 days was the only man who knew of their location. As a strange alliance, he was married to a cousin of John C. Calhoun, the southern statesman of South Carolina. Mrs. Akimo survived her husband many years and lived on in the dilapidated old log-and-lumber house and store. It has disappeared but the Casa Loma rancho home of the Pico family speaks of those times.

Ruins to be seen near Winchester until a few years ago marked the pioneer "Rock House" post office, fashioned with granite and mud by government orders. When last seen it was only a pile of broken rock, but in 1881 was the mail center for people of the territory from Temecula to Moreno, with settler Domenigoni, who had petitioned Washington for it, in charge as postmaster.

The remnant ice room or cold-storage room of the Jordan brick house in Old San Jacinto until recently identified the one-time home of "Aunt Ri" of the Ramona romance; and up on the bleak mesa of the Cahuilla reservation in the foothills of the south are the graves of the storied Alessandro and Ramona and the unused hut, closed but beyond repair, in which Ramona lived and died.

●

Temecula on the road to Oceanside and San Diego, and Aguanga on the Cahuilla road, testify not only of the Temecula Indians whose invasion of the valley induced the bloody fight with the local Ivahs in Massacre canyon near the Gilman Hot Springs, but also to the Butterfield stage line upon the southern route. They were stations of the division between Yuma and Los Angeles. The twin grooves worn by the wheels into the granite of a steep grade just out of Aguanga were preserved for years by father and son, Jacob and Henry Bergman, of the pioneer Bergman family there and of staging service themselves. The Bergman ranch home has entertained all comers through several generations, and is a part of the history of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley, its neighbor.

Congratulations Hemet

Headquarters for Southern California

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HOMES-GROVES-FARMS
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DRAGOO REAL ESTATE
(Across From Stater Bros.)
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF HEMET

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SIZZLING STEAKS — SEA FOODS — SANDWICHES
1350 NORTH SAN JACINTO STREET

Arrival of First Airplane Here Great Event in 1913

The largest crowd ever gathered at one place in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley up to that time was at the Hemet Stock Farm track Thursday afternoon, March 28, 1913, when the first airplane ever seen in the skies above this valley landed there.

The Hemet News of that date recorded the event in the following words:

After circling the Hemet Stock Farm track, at an altitude of over 2000 feet, Aviator W. Leonard Bonney, in a flight from Riverside, landed in his Deperdussin monoplane at 3 o'clock yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, in the plowed field west of the race track. More than 2,500 people saw the birdman make the landing.

■

Aviator Bonney flirted with death as he attempted to cross the Box Springs grade yesterday morning. The start was made from Riverside at 7 o'clock, and the aviator was soon at the mercy of the treacherous air currents which swirl through the deep canyons. For more than an hour the air craft floated at the mercy of the winds and realizing that it was impossible to make the grade the aviator was forced to land in the valley at 9 o'clock. In the landing one of the propellers was broken.

Repair parts were brought from Riverside and Bonney again attempted to rise from the earth, but this time the engine balked and would not lift the airship. After towing the machine to the top of the grade another effort was made to fly, and again the engine refused to work. After another hour of waiting and hard work the wings of the airship began to move and Bonney rose above the strong air currents and started for Hemet at 2:35, negotiating the 30 miles in 35 minutes. Miss Stahl was not allowed to make the trip from Riverside with Bonney, as the journey was regarded as a perilous one.

At 2:40 p.m. a speck, resembling the form of a crow, was discovered on the horizon above Moreno valley by the large crowd which had been waiting for over three hours. Gradually became more distinct, and the word was passed that the airship was coming. In a few minutes Bonney was passing over San Jacinto, and after making a semi-circle he lowered his craft and headed for the Stock Farm. Again the aviator lowered his altitude and the buzz of the engine could be distinctly heard. The landing was made safely and the big monoplane was carried across the fence and left in front of the grand stand.

■

At 1:30 today (Friday) Aviator Bonney will make several flights from the Stock Farm and will carry passengers on his trip over Hemet. Miss Stahl, who accompanied the aviator from Los Angeles to San Diego and Riverside will probably be one of the passengers. Lee Sheppard, and, perhaps, other local people may decide to take a trip into the clouds. On Saturday morning Bonney and Miss Stahl will leave for Riverside.

The people generally should turn out to this exhibition today and help pay the expenses incident to the bringing of an airship to Hemet. Tickets will be on sale at 25 and 50 cents and no one should remain outside the gates.

Over three thousand people impatiently awaited the arrival of Aviator Bonney, who was scheduled to reach the Hemet Stock Farm in his Deperdussin monoplane at 11:30 o'clock Tuesday forenoon. For four long hours people strained their eyes and craned their necks in the direction of Elsinore, hoping to discover the dim outline of the aircraft and its passengers against the blue background above the foot hills.

The crowd began to gather at 10 o'clock and by 11:30 at least three thousand people lined the race track fence on the outside and had entered through the gates to the grand stand. The Hemet and San Jacinto bands furnished excellent music during the hours of waiting, and telephone messages from Elsinore to the effect that Aviator Bonney was on his way to Hemet held the spirits of the big crowd at a high pitch. The cold, chilly wind from the snow-capped mountains nearby did not in the least chill the enthusiasm of the anxious people, neither did anyone surrender their place at the fence.

■

The failure of the birdman to arrive created a feeling of apprehension in the minds of the people. Many believed he had fallen from his craft and, perhaps, he and his companion lay dying in some lonely canyon. Others prophesied that the aeronaut had taken a side trip to Perris. The arrival of Lee Sheppard and the machinist by automobile from Elsinore only intensified the interest of the crowd. Over two hours had elapsed since the aviator left the Lake city. Repeated efforts were made to get Winchester and other intermediate stations, but the telephone communication had suddenly been cut off. Another half hour passed, and the aviator had not shown up.

A message brought the intelligence that Bonney had lost his way and had landed near Riverside and that neither of the occupants of the monoplane were injured. The machine, however, had suffered a broken propeller. The tension of the crowd was relieved and the people left, sorry because cruel fate had denied them the opportunity of seeing an airship.

Bonney left San Diego at 8:15 Tuesday morning and arrived without a stop at Elsinore at 9:45 without difficulty. The trip from San Diego to Elsinore was an easy one, as a gentle breeze from the ocean enabled the aviator to glide through the air with his craft and its passenger, Miss Stahl. At Elsinore he alighted in the presence of two thousand people. After lunch Bonney again took up his journey and after circling the lake several times left at 12:30 for Hemet. Before leaving the Lake city the aviator was given instructions to follow the railroad track to Hemet, but unfortunately he followed the wrong track and at 1:30 p.m., alighted in Stansell's field at North Almond and Strong streets in Riverside. Damage amounting to $600 was done to rudders and propellers of the monoplane. Neither occupant of the machine was seriously hurt. Miss Stahl, the young lady who was making the trip with Bonney, was pinioned under the machine when it capsized and fell to the earth, but escaped with minor bruises. Bonney was badly shaken up and was bruised about the shoulders.

■

"Contrary currents seemed to swirl about every mountain," said Bonney in a telephone message to The News. "In all my experience in flying," continued the aviator, "I have never seen a more difficult region to negotiate with an aeroplane. I lost my way completely shortly after I left Elsinore, and I did not have the least idea where I was until I landed near Riverside.

"Several hundred feet in the air my engine began to give trouble, and I was forced to bandon efforts to alight right side up. The machine capsized shortly before we reached the earth. It fell on the propeller breaking it beyond repair. The rudder was also torn off."

The following day there was another huge crowd at the Hemet Stock farm to witness the valley's first "aviation meet" at which Bonney and his airplane were the attraction. The Hemet News described the second day of the pioneer aviator's barnstorming visit here as follows:

The Hemet-San Jacinto aviation meet on Friday was a big success, drawing one of the largest crowds ever assembled at the stock farm.

The people began to gather early in the morning and by 10 o'clock the streets north and south of the stock farm were lined with vehicles, and several hundred people had passed through the gates. It had been announced that the aviator would make a flight at 1:30, but owing to a disabled engine he did not start on his trip among the clouds until 3:10.

It is estimated that over 3000 people, many of whom remained outside the gates, witnessed the exhibition.

The big Deperdussin monoplane was left in front of the grand stand for the test before the aviator would attempt to make a flight. This required over thirty minutes as the engine was disabled and was considered in an unsafe condition. Finally the machine was removed to the open field north of the race track and the aviator made a successful "get-away."

For twenty minutes he soared above the race track, reaching an altitude of nearly 2000 feet, and landed with ease at the starting point. The second flight was made at 3:50 p.m., and this time Bonney headed in the direction of San Jacinto and after circling the town passed in a southerly direction over Hemet and returned to the field south of the race track. This ended the exhibition for the afternoon. Owing to the condition of the machine the aviator would not allow anyone to accompany him on his flights. Miss Margaret Stahl, who had been his passenger from Los Angeles via San Diego to Elsinore, was here and was anxious to make the flight, but the management would not allow Bonney to take on extra weight.

The Hemet and San Jacinto bands furnished music during the afternoon, and the exhibition was a pleasure heretofore denied the people of this section.

■

Aviator Bonny was scheduled to reach Riverside by 1 o'clock on Saturday, but owing to adverse winds and an accident to the machine he did not get away before 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Three times he attempted to rise from the ground, but failed. After a strong breeze had come up Bonney arose and negotiated the distance between Hemet and Riverside in 30 minutes. He took with him an ostrich egg from the San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce and a glass jar of Hemet cling peaches from the Hemet Commercial club here, furnished by the Hemet Canning company. The ostrich egg and peaches were placed on display at the chamber of commerce in Riverside.

Bonney is the star flyer of the Sloan Aeroplane company of New York city, the importers of the Deperdussin armored aeroplane for use in scouting in war times and flies under contract with them, receiving for his services $800 a month, machine repairs and expenses. He is the head instructor for the company at their school grounds at Dominguez field, Los Angeles and at present has nine pupils of various kinds under his instructions. He has made hundreds of flights and never has been seriously injured and is known as the leader of the aviators in the west today.

Much credit is due Claude H. Webber, Lee Sheppard, G. B. Tibbots, Dr. Rayen, secretary of the Hemet Driving club, and B. H. Crow of San Jacinto for the success of the aviation meet.

Do You Remember:

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OLD OPERA HOUSE—This is the three-story Hemet opera house building erected on North Harvard street in 1905 by W. F. Whittier, founder of the city. The contractor was E. P. Burnham, a New Englander, who located here around the turn of the century and later operated a pipeyard. The ground floor, as indicated by the sign, was occupied by a carriage and implement business. The Odd Fellows hall was on the third floor and the second floor was the opera house with a seating capacity of about 300. Traveling stock companies played "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "East Lynne" and other thrillers there. About 1912 the first floor was leased to The Hemet News and the newspaper office remained there until 1955. The second and third floors were destroyed in the earthquake of 1918.

AFTER EARTHQUAKE—This is how the Hemet opera house building looked the morning after the 1918 earthquake. The Hemet News office was on the first floor. The upper floors were condemned and torn down but the ground floor, several times remodeled, still stands.

First Fruit Rancher

One of the first fruit ranchers in the Fruitvale district of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley was Lewis Graves Butler, who purchased property there in 1885.

Mr. and Mrs. Butler settled in Orange county when they came west from Nebraska in 1879, and they moved to Hemet six years later.

They farmed the Fruitvale district property until 1918 when they moved to Santa Ana. They returned to Hemet, however, in 1932. Both are now deceased.

Came From Switzerland

Head of one of the best known pioneer families of the valley until his death in 1936 was Gaudenzio Garbani, a native of Gresso, Switzerland, who came to the United States in 1874 and located in the Winchester section in 1880. For more than half a century he was one of the leading grain ranchers in this part of Riverside county.

Cotton At Winchester

The Hemet News on October 14, 1910, reported that cotton might be a new crop in the Winchester area. The news item said:

"Mrs. E. I. Rice brought a sample of cotton to The News office Thursday morning. The seed came from Raleigh, North Carolina, and was planted on her land at Winchester last April. The cotton has made a luxuriant growth and is ripe. Fresh pods open daily, revealing the beautiful white cotton. Mrs. Rice has demonstrated that cotton can be grown at Winchester."

Eight County Sheriffs

Fred W. Swope was elected in 1893 as Riverside county's first sheriff. Succeeding sheriffs and the years they were first elected were as follows: W. B. Johnson, 1894; P. M. Coburn, 1898; Frank P. Wilson, 1906; Sam Ryan, 1922; C. A. Sweeters, 1926; Carl F. Rayburn, 1930, and Joe Rice, incumbent

SEARL BROTHERS—Three of the sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. Oliver C. Searl, pioneer Diamond valley grain ranchers. Left to right, they are Harry, Garner and Edgar. Harry grew up to become mayor of Hemet, Garner lives at Patterson, California, and Edgar is the senior of four of the brothers still remaining here and engaged in extensive ranching operations.

WINCHESTER HAD A DEPOT—Up to 30 years ago, that is. The last Winchester station agent, Mrs. Tilla (Patterson) Hudson, still lives in the Winchester community. The railroad, of course, was the Santa Fe. Photo taken by Si White in 1910.

FIRST STEAM LAUNDRY — Located where the present Valley Laundry and Cleaners is on Devonshire avenue was this first Hemet steam laundry owned by W. E. Kimmell around 1904, who sold the business to the late J. O. Percival and the late Amos Churchill about 1910. It was then known as the Valley Ice and Laundry company. (Si White photo)

Do You Remember:

When the kids would gather outside the open door of Hayes (Happy) Walker's soda pop bottling works on Front street to watch him bottle the stuff? Mr. Walker continued to operate his soft drink bottling plant even after he became Hemet's city marshal.

When some of the men-about-town wore lapel buttons that said, "Oh, you kid!"?

HOW'S YOUR MEMORY FOR FACES?—Two of Hemet's best known residents for more than 50 years were Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. McManigal, shown above at their desks in the Santa Fe depot where they served almost half a century as station agent and clerk, respectively. Mr. McManigal passed away earlier this year.

M'MANIGAL VETERAN RAILROADER

It was in 1906 that the late Charles E. McManigal took charge of the little red depot at the southwest corner of Harvard street and Latham avenue in Hemet. The present depot was built in 1915.

In its early days the Santa Fe ran two passenger trains and a freight through Hemet each way every day, and in addition there was a special excursion train from Hemet to Redondo Beach and return each Sunday.

When he retired in 1944 Mr. McManigal had been the Santa Fe agent here 38 years. His retirement closed a railroad career of 49 years.

Mr. McManigal and his wife, Pearl, who was clerk at the depot almost as long as her husband was agent, continued to make their home here after they retired and until Mr. McManigal's death less than a year ago.

In his nearly two score years as agent here, Mr. McManigal trained a large number of local boys for railroad work. Among them were Henry G. Weston, now a real estate and insurance broker at Coronado; Lloyd Nichols, one of the top commercial radio technicians and executives in the country who is now with Press Wireless in New York; Joe and Cecil West, both believed to still be with the Santa Fe; Joe Barrows, now a Trans-Pacific airline pilot, and Charles Harris, now a major in the United States army.

Hemet Odd Fellows

The Hemet Odd Fellows lodge will be 54 years old this December. One of the oldest living members is Frank W. Stetson, initiated in 1906 at the second meeting. He has been a member in good standing ever since. He is a past noble grand and was financial secretary many years.

The first noble grand was Julius Mayr in 1906. Others in the early years of the lodge's history were:

1907, Frank H. Holloway; 1908, Peter Milliken; 1909, Jesse C. Belton; 1909, Claude O. Gillett; 1910, Frank W. Stetson; 1910, Fred R. Stetson; 1911, Leon L. Newton; 1911, Henry C. Wilson; 1912, Earl E. Cavanah; 1912, George W. Stevens; 1913, Stillman I. White; 1913, Victor E. Peterson; 1914, Herbert L. Dewey; 1915, William Peterson; 1915, Paul E. Simmonds; 1916, Theron B. Harding; 1916, Ray Brant; 1917, Charles G. Hamilton; 1917, William J. Fenell; 1918, Oliver P. Ensley; 1918, Harry J. Edwards; 1919, George W. Trapp; 1919, Aaron A. Riesland.

1920, Harry O. Searl; 1920, Charles J. Lawson; 1921, Luke W. Sliff; 1921, Howard E. Robinson; 1922, George Sorkness; 1922, Albert G. Liestner; 1923, Walter H. Bean; 1923, Ralph Smith; 1924, Loren H. Paris; 1924, Ernest E. Elliott; 1925, Max F. Dixon; 1925, Everett E. De Forest; 1926, Alexander Watt; 1926, Charles McCollin; 1927, Elmer G. Replogle; 1927, Donald L. Simpson; 1928, George P. Benson; 1928, George Sorkness; 1929, G. C. Disney; 1929, Carl McCammon; 1930, Carl McCammon; 1930, Harvey Mitchell; 1931, Maurice Perry; 1931, Harold Kelly.

1932, Guy Fosdick; 1932, Harry Stainbrook; 1933, Walter E. Hull; 1933, Grant Overby; 1934, Zeff Harris; 1934, Norman Wilson; 1935, Walter Bean; 1935, Cloyd Slaton; 1936, Earl Reed; 1936, Wayne Webb; 1937, James W. Dale; 1937, Lysle Kelly; 1938, Merrill Pew; 1938; Walter H. Bailey; 1939, Mozelle Ogburn; 1939, George Banes; 1940, Lee Messerall; 1940, Glen Robertson; 1941, Robert Thacker; 1941, John Frey; 1942, Harold Smith; 1942, Robert Norwood; 1943, Louis Lanier;.

1943, Lee Lasater; 1944, Ed Watson; 1944, Brady Barker; 1945, Bedford Cansler; 1945, U. G. Tallant; 1946, N. P. Green; 1946, George Hearrell; 1947, E. M. Merrick; 1947, Edgar Dye; 1948, W. R. Gohn; 1948, Sam Jewell; 1949, Carl Neubauer; 1949, Carl Neubauer; 1950, James Clary; 1950, H. R. Higgins; 1951, Ralph Hunter; 1951, Kenneth Coe; 1952, O. A. Whisenand; 1952, William Davis; 1953, H. T. Mallory; 1953, Lauren Shaver; 1954, J. S. Caudill; 1954, Ralph Ferguson; 1955, Guy English; 1955, Frank Chick; 1956, James Clary; 1956, Granville Bell; 1957, Don Skelton; 1957, H. T. Mallory; 1958, Robert Salzberg; 1958, Clyde Wheeler; 1959, Earle Powers; 1959, Earle Powers; 1960, Jay B. Turley; 1960, Jay B. Turley.

Friend of Whittiers

The late Theodore R. Jolley, veteran state game warden and a Hemet Valley pioneer, was known throughout California as one of the most efficient and persistent game law enforcement officers ever on duty in this state. His nephew, Bill Jolley, Jr., is now state game warden in the San Jacinto mountains and covers much of the same rugged territory that his uncle knew so well.

When Ted Jolley first came to Hemet in 1914, he was hired by W. F. Whittier, developer of the valley, as foreman of the Whittier citrus groves at Valle Vista and he remained in that position until 1926.

He and the late Mr. Whittier became close personal friends, and one of Ted's most prized possessions was a costly shotgun given him by the wealthy developer of the valley.

Mr. Jolley not only lived at the Whittier ranch and was foreman there, but also he frequently served as a personal bodyguard for Mr. Whittier's son, W. R. (Billy) Whittier, who sometimes got into a bit of trouble because of driving one or the other of his two Cadillacs too fast or for other reasons. Just before he died Billy gave Ted a hand-carved leather belt with a gold buckle which had been made to order in San Francisco from $20 gold pieces.

A few years before his death, Ted recalled that the only mechanic Mr. Whittier or his son would allow to work on their automobiles was J. H. Spencer, on the Whittier payroll at that time as manager of the Lake Hemet Water company shops. Mr. Spencer still lives in Hemet and is best remembered as chief of the city's volunteer fire department over a long period of years. He now holds the honorary title of "fire chief emeritus."

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TEENAGER HEADQUARTERS—This is a 1923 picture of the popular Tahquitz confectionery when it was owned by the late Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Kenney. It was the city's principal late afternoon and evening gathering place for high school students and young married couples. At noon Hemet business men gathered there for lunch. Standing in the picture, left to right, are Mrs. Gladys (Spence) Miller, Mrs. Oscar W. Brudin (then Miss Flora Kenney) and Mr. Kenney.

James Kerr Elected First Mayor

City of San Jacinto Incorporated April 25, 1898

At 3 o'clock on the afternoon of April 25, 1888, in the office of Justice of the Peace G. H. Phar, San Jacinto was officially launched upon its career as an incorporated city. Here the first board of trustees held its opening session, adopting the initial ordinances which were to be a part of the municipal law for decades to come—part of the framework in which San Jacinto was to develop to its present status of a thriving community.

Members of that board were James Kerr, John Ryan, J. F. Shultz, David Herrod and W. L. Sourse, with O. A. Munn sitting as clerk. Kerr, duly elected president of the board, became the first mayor of San Jacinto.

Although the community had been founded 16 years before its incorporation, it was still extremely youthful in spirit. It had its fair share of the buoyant recklessness which characterized all the early west. But the city fathers were intent on law and order, and they lost no time in establishing an ordinance prohibiting "tumultous conduct, or threatening, traducing, quarreling, challenging to fight, or fighting" within the city limits. The ordinance put a ban on horse races on the city streets and the firing of "any gun or pistol either in any house or on any street, alley or highway within this city."

A later ordinance went even further. It excluded from the corporate limits such things as "sling-shots, elastic or rubber slings, or projectiles used with shingles, sticks or any mode or form by means of which shot, bullets, stones or any other hard or sharp substance is thrown or projected at any person, horse, cattle, window, house, store or any other building, whether occupied by any person or not."

Speed laws had to be established, too. Ordinance No. 14 reads: "It shall be unlawful for any person to ride in any vehicle or drive any animal or team whatever, or ride a bicycle, tricycle or velocipede at an immoderate rate of speed." With the coming of the automobile, traffic regulations grew more specific. Ordinance No. 87 required, in part, that persons refrain from driving automobiles and motorcycles on the public sidewalks.

The liquor problem apparently was a source of many headaches for the early city fathers. Right at the outset, sale of alcoholic beverages was prohibited; but it was necessary, during the first 10 years of the city's incorporated life, to pass three ordinances on the subject. Evidently attempts at enforcement were meeting with more than a little difficulty.

Then, on June 3, 1902, the board of trustees approved an ordinance providing for the licensing of establishments selling liquor. Shortly afterwards a saloon was opened in San Jacinto, and a battle began between "wets" and "drys" which was to last for almost a decade. It reached its climax in the municipal election of 1908.

That election stands vivid in the minds of old-time San Jacinto residents. It was the hottest contest ever known at the local polls. Both factions organized their campaigns so thoroughly that they were able to predict within a few votes of the actual strength of each of their candidates.

On the outcome of the election hung the fate of a saloon situated on the south side of Main street about midway between San Jacinto avenue and Sheriff street. It was a saloon of the old tradition. The "drys" had vowed they would banish it forever.

And they did. Their candidates were elected to the board of trustees, which proceeded without delay to approve an ordinance forbidding the sale of intoxicants. This board was composed of George Grover, president; Jack Hopkins, Mark Worden, W. H. Sanders and L. J. Bentley. Four years later Grover became city clerk, and he served in that capacity for many years.

Rail Service Improved

In 1906 The Hemet News said: "Beginning March 21, the Santa Fe will run two fast passenger trains a day to Hemet each way in addition to a freight train."

$100 an Acre --- Back in 1899

Mrs. Edna Ferrett of San Jacinto has a copy of Farm and Fireside magazine published in New York in 1899. It contained an advertisement of the Hemet Land company, sales agents for W. F. Whittier, developer of the valley and founder of the City of Hemet.

Following is the description:

"These Hemet lands near Los Angeles are on gently sloping mesas a thousand feet above the ocean, which is 50 miles away.

"Water supply is certain and it goes with the land. No failure of crops from draught. Title perfect. No encumbrances on the land or water. $100 to $150 an acre, one-third cash.

"Oranges, lemons, apricots, peaches, etc., in abundance. Potatoes yield two crops, alfalfa six crops each year. Hemet is on the Santa Fe railway and it has churches, schools, etc. A family can prosper on 10 acres."

Well, things have changed. The other day a 10-acre Hemet Valley orchard without a residence or any other buildings sold for $30,000.

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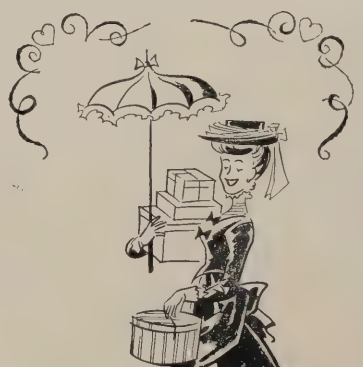

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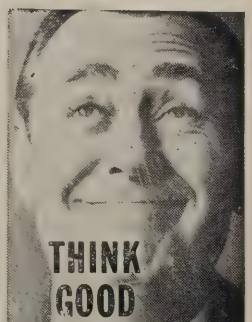

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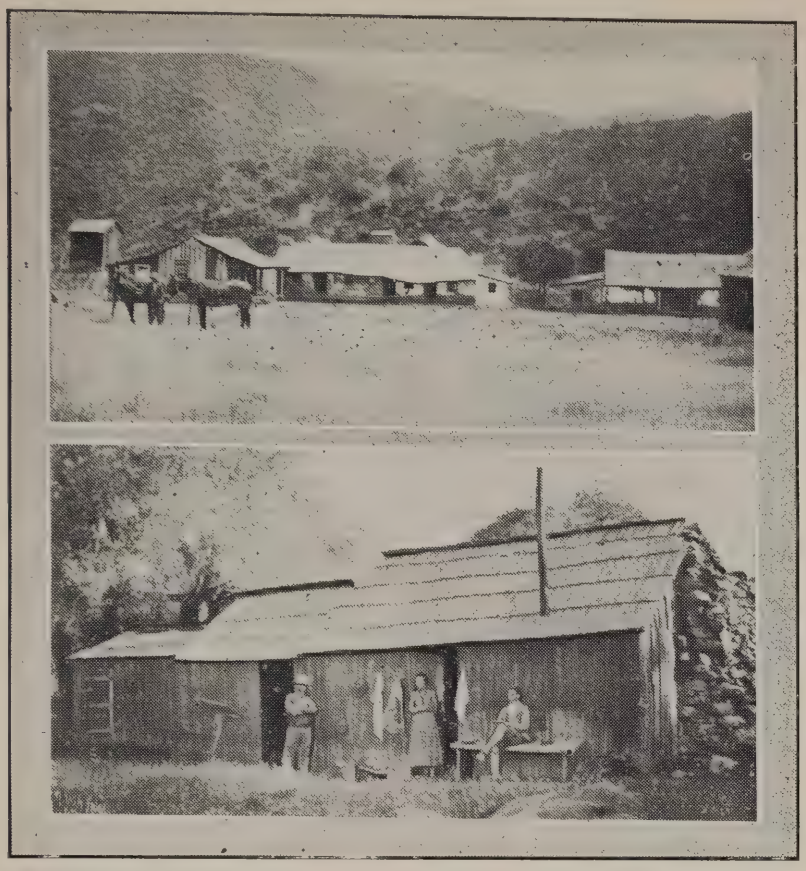

BERGMAN HOMESTEAD—The top photograph is of the old Butterfield stage station on the Bergman ranch at Aguanga, taken many years ago. Immediately under it is the original Bergman homestead building, showing Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bergman and a visitor.

Old Butterfield Stage Driver Had Colorful Career

Jacob Bergman First Saw Future Home in 1857

As a theme for the advanced English class at Hemet high school Esther M. Bergman (now Mrs. Donald Trunnell) of Grants Pass, Oregon, some years ago made a study of her family's history. The result was an interesting story, beautifully told, giving the lights and shadows of pioneer life. The article follows:

The day was hot and sultry. Jacob Bergman laid his hammer aside and sat down to rest on a box. Resting spaces were few now that he was in the Imperial German army. How he disliked it, when he was compelled to enter and serve his two years. They had made him an apprentice blacksmith because that was what he did best. Jacob was really very good in this work, and took pride in doing his best, especially when an officer brought his horse to be shod.

Some of the officers were good to work for, but there were some who seemed almost impossible to please. One of this kind entered the shed as Jacob sat there dreaming. He jumped to his feet and saluted the officer who barked, "I want this horse shod, but quick. I will be back for him in two hours, and I expect it to be done well."

Saying this, he turned on his heel and stomped off. Jacob was determined to do the job so perfectly that there could be no possible criticism, for once. He worked hard, without even stopping for lunch. When the officer returned, he stood there expectantly, his hammer in his hand. This time there must be some word of praise.

The officer looked critically at the horse's shoes, brushed off his hands, and said, "Take off those shoes, and put them on right." It was the final straw. So many times he had done work over and over to please this overbearing man. With a flash of anger, his blacksmith's hammer flew straight from his hand to its mark—the officer's head.

The man sprawled to the ground. There was no one around. What should he do? There was an old dry well back of the shop. Jacob worked fast, changing clothes with the officer, and taking his papers, he dragged him to the well and dropped him in. Mounting the freshly shod horse, he rode to the gate, hat pulled down so he would not be recognized. He was passed through without question, and as he entered the street, he wondered how long before his escape would be discovered and an alarm sent out.

Longing for his old home, he turned toward it, but upon second thought headed for the River Rhine, only a mile from the village. He knew if he could cross it, he would be safe. As he neared the river, he saw a small boat just leaving a deserted dock. He called to the man in the boat to wait a minute. The man was a vegetable peddler on his way to France. He agreed to stow Jacob in among his vegetables after he was promised liberal pay. So it was that Jacob Bergman left Germany in 1838.

•

After spending many days tramping across France, hungry, tired, disheartened, Jacob finally reached England, joined the English navy and was sent to India. There was a terrible epidemic of the "black plague," and Jacob and his bunky, John, were assigned to the dead wagon. John died, and Jacob again ran away, boarding a ship lying in the harbor, where he hid behind some boxes. A sailor, Pete, found him, and taking all his money promised to feed and protect him as a stowaway on this ship bound for South America. Before they docked in the New World, Jacob had become a seaman on the ship, which after a week sailed for New York. Here he deserted ship, worked for awhile for an uncle in Buffalo, then joined the United States army and was sent to Ft. Independence, where he survived the massacre of the inhabitants and assisted the cavalry under Beauregard in the unpopular slaughter of the Independence Indians. Then his company was sent to suppress the all too frequent uprisings along the Colorado river; then to California. One morning they dropped down into a little valley which he thought the most beautiful he had ever seen, so he vowed that when his enlistment was up he would return to this valley for the rest of his life.

October 27, 1857, the first stage coach ever in this part of the country came tearing down the hill, into what later was known as Bergman valley, with Jacob in the driver's seat. The valley is now the Anza-Aguanga district south of Hemet. He remembered his vow to settle here, but was dismayed when he found that a man named Giftaylor had already homesteaded it. His run was from Warner's ranch to Colton, and while at Warner's he met a girl by the name of Philipina Sherer. They saw a lot of each other and finally decided to marry as soon as they were able to settle down in Bergman valley. This time finally came. Jacob bought Giftaylor out for $800; they built an adobe house and were very happy. But this happiness didn't last long, because the Civil war broke out, and Jacob joined the California volunteers to serve with the U.S. army. Philipina, afraid to stay alone in the wilderness, went to Los Angeles and stayed in the fort. Here her first son, Henry, was born, while Jacob marched with Sherman to the sea. He was wounded at Vicksburg, received honorable discharge, and still carrying a Confederate bullet in his body, as well as an arrowhead from the Indian battles, he came back to Bergman valley.

The years passed. The little family grew. There were several Indian scares; a party of negroes, (first black people the children ever had seen) passed through. One son, Henry, married and started a butcher shop at Julian, a booming mining town about 50 miles from the ranch. Carrie went to teach school at Pala, Blanch to Santa Ysabel to teach in the Indian school. Two younger boys, Jake and Eli, playing Indian, didn't know the gun was loaded, and tragedy came to the little ranch home. Business slumped at Julian, and Henry and Alice moved back to Bergman valley, bought a few head of cattle, received 40 acres from Jacob Bergman, homesteaded 160 adjoining. Alice boarded the school teachers. Blanch quit teaching and married Charlie Littlepage, moving to Ballena. Tilly, another sister, lived with them.

Jacob Bergman died in 1895; Henry, and his family moved to the old Bergman ranch house, running a sort of tavern. Alice cooked meals for the people passing through the valley, kept them overnight if they wanted to stay; she also ran the postoffice.

Helen Hunt Jackson was a guest of the Bergmans when she was gathering material for her best-known novel, "Ramona."

In 1904 there was a big fire that burned off the whole north side of Palomar, including the fences between the Bergman and Mendenhall ranges. George Smith, who over the Bergman postoffice, run so long by the Bergmans in their home, built a little store and changed the name to Aguanga postoffice.

Arlie Bergman always liked the ranch better than the other children of Henry and Alice, and after finishing school went to work for the U.S. Forest service at Warner's, patrolling the roads on a motorcycle. In doing this work, he met Annie Mendenhall, who was home during vacation from the San Diego high school. She had fiery red hair, freckles and a pug nose. Girls had made much of an impression on Arlie before that, but 1917 they were married at Escondido, and homesteaded 160 acres adjoining Lost valley.

Later Arlie went into partnership with his father and they ran the home ranch together, while his brother Harry, bought a place five miles away. Annie drove the mail from Aguanga to Oak Grove in a Model T—six miles over rough, crooked road—and in haying season cooked for the baling crew of 12 men, three meals a day for the whole gang. She also drove the school bus and boarded the highway survey gang when the county road was put through. Henry Bergman passed on in 1930, leaving the ranch management to Arlie. His property had been added to, until at this time it embraces about 2000 acres, with many head of beef cattle. When it was finally paid for in full, a big celebration and barbecue was held, attended by dozens of neighbors, and many descendants of old Jacob Bergman of the German Imperial army.

GEOGRAPHY LESSON

How much do you know about the geography of Riverside county?

Most of you probably know that Corona is the westernmost incorporated city and Blythe the easternmost in Riverside county. You may even know that Riverside is the northernmost city.

But what is the southernmost city? Elsinore? Coachella?

The correct answer is neither. It's Blythe again, with Elsinore and Coachella tied as second nearest to the south county line.

How many can guess which postoffice in Riverside county is farthest north, south, east or west? Blythe is again the closest to Arizona on the east, but Corona barely shades out Norco for having the farthest west postoffice.

Probably people in Calimesa would claim without a doubt that their town has the farthest north post office. They have reason for their misconception, because their post office is only a stone's throw from being in San Bernardino county.

However, the northern county line jogs a mile north and a few miles west of Calimesa to permit Highgrove near Riverside, to have the northernmost postoffice.

What is the southernmost postoffice? Temecula? Mecca? Blythe?

All wrong. It's Aguanga, which is only a mile airline from the San Diego county line.

Only newcomers don't know that Mt. San Jacinto at nearly 11,000 feet is the top of Riverside county and that Salton sea at more than 230 feet below sea level is the bottom. But many long time residents have some common misconceptions, such as that Banning, rather than Beaumont, is at the summit of San Gorgonio pass.

At Banning you can almost reach out and touch the mountains both to the north and to the south. Also the big peaks on each side of San Gorgonio pass are east of Banning, so it's a natural error.

That makes Beaumont the highest incorporated city and Coachella down near the Salton sea the lowest, with Indio not far behind since it also is below the level of the Pacific ocean.

Do You Remember:

When every man and boy carried a pocketknife, some equipped with corkscrews?

'LET ELECTRICITY BE YOUR WATCHDOG- BURGLARS WILL NOT RAID WHERE THERE IS LIGHT'

Back in 1912 when Calectric brought central station electric service to Hemet for the first time in its history that was the slogan we used to illustrate one of the functions that electricity could perform as a servant.

People in those days didn't think of electricity in terms of refrigerators, washers, ranges, or air conditioners.

But there have been a lot of changes in Hemet's 50 years — and in the way that folks live in Hemet.

We have grown with Hemet—and we believe that we have helped Hemet to grow . . . by providing the power for business, industry and agriculture that has meant jobs and prosperity in the valley . . . by emancipating the housewife with household and kitchen appliances that have freed her to devote more time to her family and community activity.

We're proud of the role we've played in Hemet's 50-year history—powering its growth; participating in its growth through our local employees who are your neighbors; and by serving you the American way as a tax-paying citizen.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HEMET!

CALIFORNIA ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY

REMEMBER THIS?—This Hemet flour mill stood near the northeast corner of Harvard street and Latham avenue. It was one of the first buildings erected in what is now the city of Hemet and has long since disappeared. (Photo from H. H. Spaulding collection)

FIRST LAND OFFICE—Built in 1888 by E. L. Mayberry, later an associate of W. . Whittier in the development of Hemet Valley, was this house at the corner of Hewitt street and Commonwealth avenue. It served as a headquarters for a land syndicate later known as the Hemet Land company. A few years later it was purchased by William H. Spaulding, father of H. H. Spaulding, now a Hemet banker, and became the Spaulding family home. It went down in the 1918 earthquake and was then owned by Dr. Oren B. Waite, Hemet school superintendent.

THE GREAT POSTOFFICE ROBBERY

One of the biggest crime stories in the history of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley was the San Jacinto postoffice robbery and the subsequent manhunt and gun battle with the four yeggmen who took $2000 in cash and stamps after blowing the safe.

The robbery took place between 2 and 5 o'clock in the morning on a December day in 1916. The late E. T. Tanner was San Jacinto's postmaster and he discovered it when he went to the office at 5 a.m. to make up the outgoing mail for the morning train.

The postoffice was then located on the southwest corner of Main and Sheriff streets in a building previously occupied by the First National bank. The yeggmen entered a rear door. They worked the combination on the vault by drilling it and then entered the vault and opened a heavy safe inside by blowing it with nitroglycerin.

After completing the job they stole an automobile belonging to County Supervisor John Shaver and fled south toward San Diego. But the car became bogged down in a creek bed near Sage and they had to abandon it and go into the hills on foot.

As soon as the stolen car was reported from Sage several posses were organized and the search through the mountains south of Hemet continued for several days before it was given up by all the possemen except the late Lincoln Parks, who was then deputy sheriff in the Sage district.

■

Parks tracked the robbers for nearly four days and the trail finally led back to Diamond valley. When the trail had led that far Parks notified San Jacinto officers that the men probably were hiding out south of Hemet, and officers began a search of all buildings between the Hemet city limits and the foot of St. John's grade.

When the officers approached a small barn in the middle of Anthony Weber's apricot orchard just outside the city limits on South State street the barn door flew open and the four yeggmen came out shooting. Their fire was returned by a half dozen officers who had surrounded the barn. These officers included Postoffice Inspector Ranger of Los Angeles, Constable Charles E. Chambers of San Jacinto, City Marshal Lloyd of San Jacinto and Deputy Sheriffs Arthur R. Hazeltine and H. R. Wilson, both of San Jacinto.

Hazeltine, who was shooting a high-powered rifle, was credited with hitting one of the robbers who fell twice as he ran through the orchard and dropped a package containing 200 sheets of 2-cent stamps and a bag holding $100 in cash. The package of stamps had a hole in it that had been drilled by a bullet from Hazeltine's rifle.

■

But the robbers got away. Although the officers and possemen immediately blocked every road leading out of the valley, they neglected to block the railroad track and the yeggmen used this route to escape as far as Perris where they stole another automobile.

Several days later the leader of the quartet of robbers, who gave his name as Tom Sharkey, was captured in Los Angeles when he called for a suitcase which had been checked at the Pacific Electric station.

Do You Remember:

When the laundries did a big business in starching stiff collars and cuffs? Every man had a dozen or more collars which he attached to his dress shirts. Some of the more distinguished citizens also wore detachable starched linen cuffs.

When a discovery of a fire in the San Jacinto mountains meant that the police and forest rangers would soon be around to recruit fire-fighting forces from street corners and in poolrooms? If you refused to go you would probably be hailed into court later and given a stiff fine — or even a jail term if you became nasty about it.

When you never failed to bring back souvenirs from your summer vacation outing? This practice accounted for the miscellaneous collections of spoons, dishes, cigarette trays and knick-knacks that cluttered so many homes for 20 years or more after the turn of the century.

Soboba

SPRINGS HOTEL

No history of the valley would be complete without the rich background of Soboba. From the days when our springs were the camping grounds for early Indians, then the first white settlers, and down to the present day . . . they have benefitted the people. Let this be an invitation to visit in this pleasant restful atmosphere where exotic plants thrive and every convenience is at hand.

— MINERAL BATH —

Why Travel to Far Places

The analysis of the Soboba waters compares with the analysis of the Sprudel Springs at Carlsbad, Europe.

Tasty Food
Fine Beverages
Large Swimming Pool

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Rooms: Single, $5 to $10; Double, $7 to $14
Moderate Prices Prevail
Dinner from $2.50

J. E. VanderClute
Manager

CITY IN 1906—Panoramic view of Hemet from roof of three-story opera house building in 1906. Fenced field facing Florida avenue is where early circuses, carnivals and tent meetings were held. The area occupied the Florida avenue block between Carmalita and Harvard streets. Shortly after this picture was taken the Bank of Hemet building was erected at the corner of Florida and Harvard and the D. W. Gauld building at the corner of Florida and Carmalita.

HEMET REBEKAHS

The first noble grand of Hemet's Comfort Rebekah lodge was Mrs. Bertha A. Calhoun, elected in 1907. Other noble grands in the lodge's early years were: 1907, Addie F. Newton; 1908, Ida B. Winslow; 1909, Mabel Spencer; 1909, Mae Gifford; 1910, Nellie Kingsbury Wilson; 1911, Mabel K. Thompson; 1911, Electa O. Thompson; 1912, Jessie B. Wilcox; 1912, Josie Bell; 1913, Dora E. Shirk, two terms; 1915, Elizabeth A. Dewey; 1916, Alma S. Harding; 1916, Jennie H. White; 1917, Hazeldell Brant Searl; 1917, Nellie B. Stetson; 1918, Carrie E. Salmon; 1918, Eva A. Edwards; 1919, Elva E. Wilson; 1919, Nellie B. Stetson, second term; 1920, Josie Bell, second term.

1920, Minnie M. Lawson; 1921, Anna L. Bean; 1921, Minnie H. Sorkness; 1922, Dicie L. Winn; 1922, Mary L. Leistner; 1923, Anna Brant; 1923, Anna L. Bean, second term; 1924, Mabel Spencer, second term; 1924, Nellie B. Stetson, third term; 1925, Dora Allen; 1925, Florence Benson; 1926, Rosa DeForest; 1926, Olive F. Waggoner; 1917, Minnie F. Waggoner, second term; 1927, Dora Allen, second term; 1928, Vista Kelly; 1928, Mary Dixon; 1929, Nellie Morse; 1929, Cecil McCammon; 1930, Myrtle Simpson; 1930, Marion Robinson; 1931, Eleanor Smith; 1931, Rhea L. North.

1932, Cynthia Smith; 1932, Olive Shockley Morse; 1933, Dora Banta; 1933, Mary L. Liestner; 1934, Leila Perry; 1934, Hattie Disney; 1935, May E. Messerall; 1935, Laura Van Dorsten; 1936, Eleanor Smith; 1936, Olive Morse; 1937, Minnie Sorkness; 1937, Thelma Bailey; 1938, Mildred B. Pirot; 1938, Lena E. McBurney; 1939, Mable Kelly; 1939, Vera E. Nawton; 1940, Beatrice Monaghan; 1940, Blanche Waggoner; 1941, Mary Dye; 1941, Ina Ruth Jonson; 1942, Gertrude King; 1942, Hallie I. Banes.

1943, Bertha Bogart; 1943, Ruby Records; 1944, Hallie Lanier; 1944, Esther Snideman; 1945, Alice Bennett; 1945, Maybelle Draves; 1946, Dena Miller; 1946, Mrs. Lela Ellichman; 1947, Mrs. Nora Kimble; 1947, Mrs. Irene Tallant; 1948, Mrs. Irene Merrick; 1948, Mrs. Clara Larimer; 1949, Mrs. Ann Jewell; 1949, Mrs. Inez Harris; 1950, Mrs. Phoebe Pew; 1950, Mrs. Mary Case; 1951, Mrs. Mary Case; 1951, Mrs. Edith Bradford; 1952, Mrs. Marie Miller; 1952, Mrs. Nellie Blake; 1953, Mrs. Iva Isett; 1954, Mrs. Hilda Caudill; 1955, Mrs. June Biedebach; 1956, Mrs. Almeta Sherwood; 1957, Mrs. Josephine Hannon; 1958, Mrs. Elva Turley; 1959, Mrs. Edna Davis; 1960, Mrs. Irene Powers.

1910 HIGH SCHOOL TEAM—This was Hemet high school's baseball team about 1910. Seated, left to right, are Frank Pitcher, Gary Lindley, Noah Dixon and Fletcher Nichols. Standing, left to right, are Howard Rickard, Osborne Rutherford, Elwin Rowell, Earl Johnson and Billie Brooke. (Photo from Grace Fosdick collection)

Greetings and Best Wishes to the City of Hemet

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Here in the "Foothills of Heaven" you will enjoy warm lazy days and cool invigorating nights, combining with smog-free air to make this valley the "Health Heaven" of California.

Overlooked by the stately 10,000-foot peaks of the San Jacinto mountains, this lovely valley is being "Re-discovered" by "trailer-ites" because it offers mobile home living at its very best; a refreshing compromise between dampness of the ocean and dryness of the desert. At 1600 feet elevation, it is close to lakes, mountains and forests, with clear skies and sunshine at least 305 days a year.

A Man of Delightful Eccentricities

Clarence B. Covell Was Hemet Banker Over 50 Years

One of the most noteworthy changes in the Hemet business community in recent years occurred in early 1959 when Clarence B. Covell, 86, retired from the active management of the locally-owned Farmers and Merchants bank after 51 years of continuous service to that institution.

He intended to remain on the board of directors and serve the bank also in an advisory capacity, but death intervened and he died of a heart attack 12 days after making his retirement announcement, in which he said he had no intention of changing the daily routine he had followed for more than half a century. This included the opening of the bank door in the morning and locking it at the end of the business day.

Succeeding Mr. Covell as bank manager was executive Vice President Thomas J. Fletcher. H. H. Spaulding had been president of the bank since the death of I. B. Gibbel, pioneer Hemet business man. Miss Frida M. Pallesen, who has been with the bank more than 40 years, continues as an assistant cashier and a member and secretary of the board of directors. Mr. Fletcher has been with the bank since 1918.

Although he had never had any other title than that of cashier, Mr. Covell had been manager of the bank almost from the day he arrived in Hemet in 1908 and purchased his first 100 shares of the bank's stock. He eventually acquired a majority of the stock and retained it until 1958, when he sold some of it at an "inside" price to bank employees and close friends.

Throughout his 51 years with the bank, he insisted on being the lowest salaried regular employee.

Mr. Covell was a native New Englander, having come to California from Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. After spending six months visiting communities from Hanford to Escondido, he decided on Hemet as his future home.

Until deciding to move west he had been employed by the Shelburne Falls National bank, where he accepted his first banking position in 1891 when he was 18 years old. He joined the Masonic lodge in 1893.

Mrs. Dorothy Mann, his sister, is now living in San Diego. She came to California 30 years ago.

■

At the time of Mr. Covell's retirement, Homer D. King, editor of The News, wrote about him in the "Observations" column as follows:

In spite of his conservatism and reluctance to attend public gatherings or serve in civic or other public positions, C. B. Covell, who has just resigned after more than 50 years as cashier of Hemet's Farmers and Merchants bank, has long been one of the valley's best known and most respected men.

Although 86 years old, he does not think of himself as retired. He is retaining his desk at the bank and will serve in an advisory capacity. He expects to make no changes in his daily routine.

It would require many columns like this to tell the whole story of this veteran country banker's successful and almost fabulous banking career and to tell about his delightful eccentricities and almost secret personal philanthropies.

He has never owned or driven an automobile. He rides in them only when it is absolutely necessary.

In his half century as head of the bank he has never been in downtown Los Angeles; in fact, his only trip to that city was about 15 years ago when he was induced to attend a performance of the Pilgrimmage Play in Hollywood. He left Hemet in the afternoon and returned home the same evening.

He has not been in Riverside, the county seat, more than half a dozen times since coming here in 1908.

Until about 15 years ago he walked along the railroad track to San Jacinto and return every afternoon after leaving the bank.

His annual vacations have all been spent in San Diego at the same hotel and in the same room.

In his more than half a century here he has never been absent from the bank a single day because of illness or for any other reason except during his annual two weeks vacations. And there has never been a Sunday or bank holiday on which he did not spend at least a few hours in the bank.

C. B. Covell is one of the few men who ever said "no" to A. P. Giannini, founder and long-time president of the gigantic Bank of America. Giannini walked into the Hemet bank one day and said: "Covell, I want to buy your bank!" Just as abruptly, Mr. Covell replied: "It's not for sale, to you or anybody else." The incident was the beginning of a friendship that lasted until Giannini died.

The personal and little known Covell philanthropies include a private student loan which has helped a considerable number of deserving Hemet boys and girls obtain college educations. And often when one of them paid off the loan the interest was refunded to them. For many years he has awarded a college scholarship to a member of the high school graduating class.

He has given anonymously of his own funds to relieve distress situations in many Hemet families.

Once when we were a boy and applied at the bank for a $5 loan to meet a past due installment payment on a mandolin which was about to be repossessed, he snorted the word "no" so forcefully that we were almost blown through the door and into the street. Years later when we ventured on the sea of matrimony he slipped a $100 bill in our pocket as a wedding gift and walked away before we could thank him.

Every noontime for 50 years he has eaten carrots and peas at a downtown restaurant.

Even if you never knew him, you've probably guessed by now that he's a bachelor.

When The Hemet News was published only once a week, on Thursday afternoons, he invariably came to the office as soon as the bank closed and waited to get the first two copies off the press. We suspect he would now be doing it on a twice-a-week basis if press-time hadn't been changed to midnight.

What would Hemet be like without C. B. Covell?

Back in the midwestern town where we were born there is a Civil war cannon in the city park. We sometimes wonder what the town would be like without its cannon. That's as good an answer as we can give.

Following the veteran banker's death it was learned that, after providing for his sister in San Diego, he had distributed much of his estate to associates in the bank and to close friends. His sister directed that a large sum remaining be given to deserving Hemet institutions and organizations. The Hemet Masonic lodge, for example, received $25,000 for its building fund.

Do You Remember:

When Hemet people entertained their out-of-town guests by driving them to the Big Springs ranch to eat an olive freshly picked from the tree, then to the Cawston Ostrich farm west of San Jacinto to see the big birds that provided plummage for the hats worn by wealthy women throughout the country in the Lillian Russell days, and finally to Valle Vista for a dinner at Mrs. M. G. Stone's Magnolias hotel?

When you were living high if you indulged in a 75-cent Sunday dinner? At some places you could get chicken or steak dinners for as little as 50 cents.

When almost everybody driving a horse or a team would stop at the watering trough at Front and Harvard streets?

VETERAN COUNTY BANKER—Clarence B. Covell, executive officer of Hemet's Farmers and Merchants bank for 51 years prior to his death last year at the age of 86. He came to Hemet from New England in 1908 and had been in Los Angeles only once in his 51 years in Hemet—on an evening when he went in to see the Pilgrimage play in Hollywood and returned home the same evening.

Do You Remember:

When the ice wagons were as familiar on the streets as milk wagons?

Congratulations
to the
City of Hemet
on its
Golden Anniversary Jubilee

from California's pioneer sugar beet seed producers . . . it has been a pleasure and privilege to help our city grow and prosper into a place in which to live and enjoy living . . .

Farrar-Loomis Seed Co.

IRWIN E. FARRAR — JAY C. LOOMIS — W. N. PARKHURST — HILLAS COLE

City of Hemet and Spauldings Celebrating Together

Outstanding among Hemet's social events in 1910 — the year the city was incorporated — was the wedding ceremony that united Henry Harrison Spaulding and Miss Blanche Stump, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Stump.

So both the city of Hemet and the Spauldings celebrated golden anniversaries this year.

But the Spauldings confined their observance of the occasion to a visit in San Francisco with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Spaulding. The younger Mr. Spaulding is with the Standard Oil Company of California in an executive engineering capacity. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology more than 20 years ago.

Mrs. Spaulding was a teacher in the Hemet schools at the time of her marriage. Her father was a lumber yard owner here and Mr. Spaulding became associated with him in that business.

He acquired the entire business following his father-in-law's retirement and for about 30 years was the leading lumber yard operator in the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley.

Since selling his lumber business to the present McCoy Lumber company, Mr. Spaulding has devoted all his time to other interests, chiefly in the fields of banking and finance. He is now president of the Hemet's Farmers and Merchants bank, and he retired less than a year ago from the position of president of the Hemet Federal Savings and Loan association.

•

In its issue of April 22, 1910, The Hemet News carried the following account of the Stump-Spaulding wedding:

Wedding vows were spoken at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Stump at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning when Rev. George Graff united in marriage Miss Blanche Stump and Harrison Spaulding.

The wedding, which was marked with simplicity, was beautiful in every detail.

Only the families of the bride and groom and a few intimate friends witnessed the ceremony.

A few minutes before the hour, Miss Marian Kimmell of Corona sang, "Oh, Promise Me," changing to Lohengrin's "Bridal Chorus," the bride entering to the sweet strains on the arm of her father to meet the groom, who was waiting under a canopy of greenery where the vows were exchanged in an impressive manner, the ring being used. In the living room, where the ceremony was performed, the window seat was banked high with white carnations and smilax, turning it into an improvised altar. Overhead hung a wedding bell of white carnations, trailing strands of smilax forming a beautiful background for the bridal party. The bride was a lovely picture in her wedding gown of filmy white, and carried an arm bouquet of white rosebuds and ferns. The only ornament was a pearl pendant, an heirloom of the Spaulding family.

The manly groom was handsome in conventional black.

After congratulations a dainty wedding breakfast was served in the dining room, where a pink effect was carried out in the floral decorations. Lady Banksia roses and ropes of smilax were gracefully used. The oval table was hidden under a pink canopy of roses and smilax festooned from all parts of the room to the electrolier. The centerpiece, a large bowl of pink rose buds, which overflowed the sides onto a round mirror, sprays of maiden-hair fern, radiated from this to the places which were marked by dainty hand painted cards adorned with pink rose buds.

The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Stump. She has spent most of her girlhood in Hemet, being prominent in social and educational circles. Her friends are many, and all wish her joy and happiness.

The groom has lived most of his life in Hemet, being a graduate of the Hemet high school. He is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Spaulding, and is a young man of great promise. The past few years he has been actively engaged in business here, and is a large holder in the lumber firm of Stump & Spaulding.

Immediately after the breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Spaulding slipped quietly away by auto to spend their honeymoon. The bride wore a beautiful tan colored gown for going away, with hat of harmonizing shades.

Upon their return, their many friends will find a welcome at their cozy bungalow just completed on Harvard street.

•

William H. Spaulding brought his wife and son, Harrison, to the Hemet Valley from northern California in 1901. The development of the valley was just beginning. Harrison just missed being a native Californian. His father was a retired Wisconsin farmer. After living in California for some time prior to the turn of the century, the family moved to Albany, New York, where Harrison was born, but soon returned to California.

Young Harrison graduated from Hemet high school in 1906 when the late Edgar T. Boughn was principal.

MARRIED IN 1910—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Spaulding, Hemet pioneers whose wedding 50 years ago was social event of the year.

It was the tenth graduating class in the school's young history. Seven other members of the graduating class were Lula Case, Dovie Glodfelty, Gertrude Rives, Rita Domenigoni, Gary Lindley, Paul St. John and Vinnie Stout. The high school then was at the northwest corner of Buena Vista street and Acacia avenue. It was while in high school that Harrison met Blanche Stump.

Following his graduation Harrison started to work in 1907 at the Farmers and Merchants bank when it was first organized, the bank of which he is now president.

Mr. Spaulding was a charter member of the Hemet Kiwanis club and its president in 1931. He was also a charter member of the Hemet Masonic lodge. He is a former president of the Hemet Valley Chamber of Commerce and served twice as a member of the city council.

Do You Remember:

When every family had an ornate kerosene lamp in the parlor window? Some of the lamps were equipped with circular wicks which threw off a fairly good light too.

When crowds gathered in the doorways of radio stores back in the 20's to hear the World Series broadcasts?

When Hemet people took the train to San Bernardino when Buffalo Bill Cody brought his wild west circus there?

When laboring men bought chewing tobacco in tin cans that could later be used as lunch buckets? That was about the time when tobacco companies started putting pictures of baseball players, boxers and actresses in cigarette packages.

When every man of distinction wore a charm on his watch chain? Did you ever wonder where those sporty fellows got those $20 gold pieces they wore hanging in plain sight on their vests?

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Years of Experience...
have taught us that the most important factor to build into a tire is SAFETY, not PRICE. An O. K. Jordan Retread with VOIT INVINCIBLE premium rubber is like a life insurance policy, double protection . . . *More and Safer Miles.*
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REMEMBER THIS?—Standing is the late Abe Smith, pioneer who erected some of Hemet's first business buildings. Seated in the carriage, used mainly for Sunday afternoon trips around the valley, are Mrs. Smith and her mother. The Smiths came to the valley from London about 1900 and became members of a quite extensive "English colony" here. The house in the picture was located on what is now the site of the branch office of the California department of motor vehicles.

Donald J. Fleming Now Hemet's Full-Time Fire Chief

Hemet this year acquired a full-time salaried chief of the fire department. He is Donald J. Fleming, who has been chief of the city's volunteer fire department since the retirement of J. H. Spencer, the first fire chief the city ever had.

Soon to be honorably discharged is a 28-year-old veteran of service with the fire department.

Never heard of "him"?

Actually, it isn't a man at all. It's a faithful old fire truck, the department's highly respected G.M.C.-American LaFrance.

Hemet's long-time blaze battlers will tell you the old truck has a personality too! As Fire Marshal Harold E. Kelly reported, "Our rugged old 500-gallon pumper has made a lot of local fire fighting history. In its 1958 tests it surprised the inspectors again with a nearly perfect pumping performance."

The marshal added, "It's slated for 'retirement' whenever the city can secure a new 1000-gallon pumper. But our LaFrance will still be more than handy for standby aid."

There are only 2191 miles on its speedometer.

■

Hemet old-timers with the volunteer department recall how the 1929 model started serving the community early in 1930.

"The LaFrance's first real use was on a haymow fire over the old roller skating rink, where the Latham avenue serve-yourself gas station is now," Kelly said. "We hadn't had it a month. Did as good a job as any equipment could on baled hay."

The LaFrance, now rated as Hemet's "No. 2" fire truck, was preceded by an ancient Cadillac.

The 1912 Cadillac, a converted touring car once owned by W. F. Whittier, Hemet's founder, is now stored by Robert Shepard in his North Carmalita street machine shop. It is equipped with old hand lanterns, a few short ladders, hose reel and hand fire extinguishers.

When the second truck was added the 1910 vintage fire station was remodeled.

It's the same building used to house both the Hemet police and fire departments today. Current civic center plans call for a new station and "additional firefighting facilities" which may reduce the insurance rates on local property.

Hemet's department, now consisting of 21 volunteers and three paid men, acquired a Mack 500-gallon pumper, 1949 model, in 1950 after a downtown blaze caused over $200,000 damage.

That fire destroyed an orange packing house, an implement company building and its equipment and stock, the big Monte Vista garage and automobile agency, and several other buildings on and near the southwest corner of Florida avenue and State street.

■

"The Mack truck is too loaded down now. We could well use the old LaFrance as a stand-by unit for ladders and lots of other equipment when the 1000-pumper is finally obtained," Marshal Kelly said. "For instance, on the Mack we carry a 320-gallon water tank, 600 feet of booster line, one 35-foot extension ladder, one 24-foot extension ladder, a 12-foot ladder, masks, a smoke ejector, 1350 feet of 2½-inch hose, 600 feet of 1½-inch hose, plus small hand tools, hand lights, rubber boots, turnout coats, extinguishers, helmets and other minor items.

"We should have our generator on the truck, too, to provide electricity for emergency light and power, but there's no room." The marshal explained further that "the old LaFrance is loaded with an 80-gallon water tank, 1200 feet of 2½-inch hose, 600 feet of one-inch booster line, a 24-foot extension ladder, a 10-foot roof ladder, an inhalator-resuscitator, helmets, coats, boots and other miscellaneous equipment."

Do You Remember:

When a few valley farmers tried unsuccessfully to grow cotton? Later, experimental plantings in the Palo Verde area around Blythe produced good crops. Today cotton is one of the major crops there.

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on its
50th ANNIVERSARY

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They Sold Bicycles and Buggy Whips

Pioneer Gibbel Family Came to Hemet 69 Years Ago

For more than 60 years the name Gibbel has been one of the best known in Hemet and the valley—in agriculture, in retail business, in banking circles and in the city government.

One Gibbel was a minister of the gospel (Church of the Brethren), another was a leading merchant and bank president, and still another was mayor of the city.

The oldest mercantile establishment in the valley still operated under its original name by descendants of its founder is the Gibbel hardware store at the intersection of Florida avenue and State street in Hemet. The present oprators are Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Handcock. Mrs. Handcock is the former Ruth Gibbel.

It was the earthquake of Christmas morning, 1899, that put the late I. B. Gibbel in the hardware business.

When the earthquake came, Mr. Gibbel was a clerk in Weber Bros. general merchandise store. The quake shook down the fire walls and otherwise damaged the store building, and so unnerved were two of the Weber brothers that they decided to leave California as soon as possible. A third brother moved to the coast.

They told Mr. Gibbel that if he could raise $500 he could buy the business. By the time he had arranged to borrow the money from J. A. Brown, the Webers decided they had been too hasty in making their proposition and said they would let Mr. Gibbel have only the hardware stock for $500. He took it, but paid part down in hay and gave his note for the balance.

The Weber brothers had erected the present Gibbel building only a few months before the earthquake. He moved the hardware stock to a smaller building a few doors east and was in business for himself.

Later he moved the stock to a building on Harvard street where the Cornet store is now located and was there for two years until he bought from Mrs. H. T. Hewitt the building at the corner of Florida avenue and State street which has been the home of the Gibbel store the past 58 years.

•

Mr. Gibbel came to Hemet with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac M. Gibbel, from Auburn, Illinois, in 1891. Another son, Abram, and two daughters of I. M. Gibbel were already here. The father and Abram purchased 558 acres of farm land known as the Bill Styce place south of the present Ryan Field.

I. M. Gibbel was a minister of the Dunkard (Church of the Brethren) church and soon after his arrival here he erected a church building on his farm and was the first minister to serve a small but enthusiastic congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Gibbel had six children: Susan (Mrs. J. D. Brubaker), Sarah (Mrs. P. A. Shearer), Abram, Fannie (Mrs. James M. Masterson), Hettie and I. B. Gibbel. The father died here in 1912 and the mother passed away about 25 years ago after returning to Illinois.

Children of I. B. Gibbel were Owen W. Gibbel, now deceased, and Mrs. Ruth Handcock. Owen had two sons, Robert and Richard. Owen served as mayor of Hemet several years.

I. B. Gibbel was 16 years old when he arrived here in 1891 and it was January 3, 1900, that he entered business for himself. Mrs. Gibbel was the former Linnie Walmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Walmer, who came here about 1888 and lived in the Anza district four years.

Susan, the eldest of the I. M. Gibbel children, married J. D. Brubaker in Illinois and they came to Hemet with their family about 1896. They had six children, Owen, Lawrence, Fannie, Darus, Glen and Viola, all of whom are living. The sons have been prominent in the agricultural and business life of the valley.

•

I. B. Gibbel was a successful merchant from the beginning. At the time of his death a few years ago, he had been president of the Farmers and Merchants bank for over 30 years and had extensive real estate holdings throughout the valley.

Among the many interesting incidents of his mercantile career remembered by Mr. Gibbel were the circumstances surrounding the adding of bicycles to his hardware store stock. The late T. B. Foster was the man who convinced Mr. Gibbel that there was money to be made in bicycles. Mr. Foster agreed to put up the money for the purchase of a sample bicycle with the understanding that Mr. Gibbel was to pay him $1 for every bicycle sold by the store thereafter. It was the best investment Mr. Foster ever made.

When the Gibbel family arrived from Illinois, the Hemet dam was under construction. Most of the valley had been cleared of sagebrush and was planted to grain. There were only three houses within what is now the city of Hemet. Out at Diamond valley there were a few small unirrigated peach orchards. L. G. Butler had a pear orchard in what is now the Fruitvale district. A family named Lee had about 20 acres of fruit in what is now the Little Lake section and there were a few family fruit orchards around San Jacinto. John McCool had a flour mill near what is now the intersection of Harvard street and Latham avenue.

The S. E. Yoder family, close friends of the Gibbels throughout the past half century came here from Iowa in 1893.

Among persons still living here who were in the valley when the Gibbel family came are Mrs. Lee Emerson, Mrs. Clark McEuen, Tilla Hudson, Antonio and Pete Domenigoni, William Wall, Andrew J. Miranda, Miss Ada Hogue, Miss Ruth Pico and Gilbert Spence.

Hitching Post Days

At her home on North Inez street, Mrs. Henry E. Behrens is taking a more personal interest than most people in Hemet's Fiftieth Anniversary Year celebration, for it was March 9, 1910 — the year the city was incorporated — that she came to Hemet.

Streets were unpaved and there were hitching posts in front of almost every residence, she recalls.

"My father's name was Henry F. Magoon and we came to Hemet from Missouri. I was born in Springfield. All of us wondered what our 'new country' would be like," the loyal Hemet resident remembers.

The family of five stayed its first day and night here at the old Hemet hotel, which later burned to the ground.

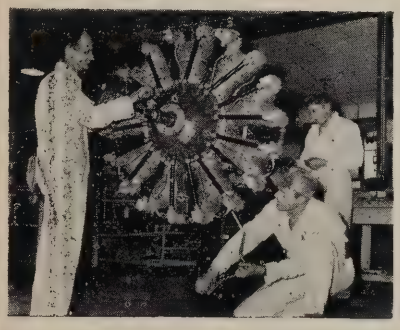
"I was 17 then, fresh from the farm in Missouri, and I can well remember what the early-day Hemet really looked like to us," Mrs. Behrens said, smiling.

"The old livery stable was a most important place, as horse and buggy or wagon, or horseback travel was the only way to get around, unless you wanted to walk. And in those days we often walked as far as Idyllwild and enjoyed it. San Jacinto had big artesian wells."

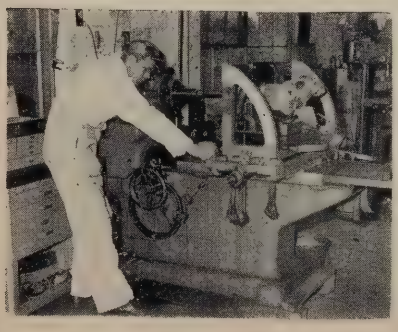
Her father bought a house at Devonshire avenue and Inez street and the family "took root" here, she remembered. Determination drove them to keep going even after the heart-sickening loss of her oldest brother, Frank, who drowned in the Little Lake reservoir.

The Magoon family bought 10 acres of land on West Florida avenue, put in a crop of alfalfa and later acquired other valley holdings.

"It used to be we had to stay in Perris overnight on a horse and buggy trip to Riverside over that narrow, sandy, dusty road. But now my daughter, Helen, and I make it in 28 minutes!" Mrs. Behrens said.



Final assembly on one of the Pratt-Whitney R-985, 450 H.P. engines, used in their crop dusters.



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1892 THRESHING CREW—This photograph, taken by Thomas Milholland, Valle Vista photographer, in 1892, shows a typical "coffee break" of that era. At left in the photo is George Milholland, son of the photographer. Others, from left, are a Mr. Jacobs, John Wilms, Frank Huntoon, Charles Chambers, Harry Wilms, Will Faivre, Ed Kimbell, Joe Huntoon and Mr. Wilms, Sr. The thresher was owned by Mr. Wilms and Mr. Chambers. The threshing crew was working just south of the present San Jacinto Valley cemetery when photo was taken.
(Photo from Joe Huntoon collection)

HEMET BEFORE ITS INCORPORATION

Were you in Hemet in 1907? If so, perhaps we can refresh your memory about people and events of that year – and even if you are a newcomer you may find it interesting to know what was going on in Hemet 53 years ago.

The only business establishments of 1907 that are still operating under their original names are the Gibbel hardware store, the Farmers and Merchants bank and The Hemet News.

W. H. Mann and Burdette Raynor entered the hardware and plumbing business here that year. C. M. Dietterich had a stationery store. Hemet's largest dry-goods store was Schmidt's which called itself "The City Store in the Country."

M. C. Gauld operated the Hemet Auto Garage and was agent for Tourist automobiles. He advertised six models in the Tourist line for 1907. The most popular was a light two-cylinder touring car which developed 22 horsepower and sold for $1250. A four-cylinder speedy two-passenger roadster sold for $1800, and the four-cylinder touring car for five passengers was offered by Mr. Gauld at a price of $2600. For the country club set Mr. Gauld offered the Tourist seven-passenger limousine for $3650. He also had a stock of driving gloves and goggles.

•

Other Hemet business men in 1907 were W. C. Goodhue, T. S. Brown, William Kingham and Thompson & Chaffin, all in the real estate business; F. G. Wedemeyer, druggist; W. M. Tripp, meat market proprietor; I. G. Silver, harness shop owner; E. P. Burnham, brick yard owner; E. M. Clarke, jeweler; R. J. Roulston, funeral director; R. G. Swift, shoe repair shop owner; J. P. Case, bakery owner; William Wilson, owner of the Hemet Nursery company, and P. N. Myers, general manager of Hemet Land company.

In that year Dr. F. K. Strasser purchased a Holsman automobile, the second to be sold in California. In describing it The Hemet News said, "It is an elegant machine. It has wheels as large as buggy wheels and is much easier to ride in than a buggy. It has solid rubber tires and therefore there is no danger of punctures. It cost the doctor more than a good runabout but the expense of keeping it will be less."

Also in that year the Farmers and Merchants bank was organized with T. E. Rickard (father of Ernest Rickard) as president, Dr. Joseph E. Blackshaw as vice president, S. W. Leffingwell as cashier and H. R. Links as assistant cashier. Directors included I. B. Gibbel, D. W. Amos and Charles McDiarmid.

•

A party was given in 1907 by the Ladies Guild which The Hemet News said was a "brilliant success far surpassing the most sanguine expectations." Continuing its report of this event The News said: "Many of Hemet's prominent citizens and landowners were present. The opera house with its more than 100 electric lights and gay decorations was a scene of enchantment." A voting contest to select a May queen was quite lively. The two highest contestants were Miss Gertrude Rives of Hemet with 179 votes and Miss Viola Tune of San Jacinto with 100 votes. Miss Rives was introduced from the stage by Peter Milliken, publisher of The News.

It was a fancy dress party in a big way. Among those appearing in special costumes were: Mrs. Graham as "Night," Mrs. Stone as "Midsummer," Mrs. Alger Fast as a "Poppy," Mrs. F. G. Wedemeyer as "Violets and Carnations," Mrs. C. M. Smyth as "Donna Teresa," Mrs. Herman as "Pink Rose," Mrs. Molyneux as "Ferns and Roses," Miss Adelaide Clarke as "Petunia," Miss Rives as "Apple-blossoms," Miss Seger as "Violet," Miss May Botterell as "Yum-Yum," Miss Lever as "Sunflower," and Miss Westwood as "Queen of Hearts."

On a committee to sponsor the Fourth of July celebration of 1907 were: Herman Schmidt, H. L. Thompson, Will Kimmell, Dr. W. C. Rayen, G. A. Armstead, V. E. Peterson, William Bradford, J. H. Botterell, Fred Barlow, Guy Prier, W. S. Rather, Miss Bess Daniels, George Bolten, George Straw, J. A. Jacques, Robert Rennie and J. C. Belton.

Do You Remember:

When kids used to follow Guy Ankrum, city electrician, around town and pick up the stubs of carbon which he removed from the arc lights at street intersections?

When fashion required women to wear what they called sailor hats? They were broad-brimmed straws with a wide band. Some women held them on their heads with a scarf; others used those long hat pins which were also useful at times for defense purposes.

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WE SOLD

HOUSES WITH

PATHS

NOW MOST

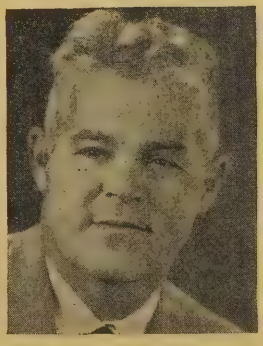
OF THEM

HAVE TWO

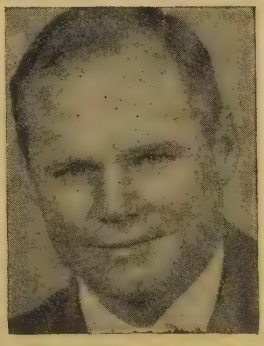
BATHS

JOSEPH A. CONOVER, Associate

G. ROGER BRUBAKER, Broker



C. SPENCE BERRY, Salesman



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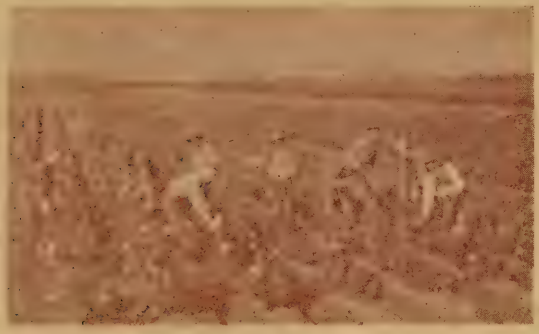
AS ONE OLD FRIEND TO ANOTHER

Best Wishes to the City of Hemet on its Fiftieth Anniversary

Mr. Charles Howard, Sr., who founded Howard Rose Co. in 1908. Widely known and respected in the business, Mr. Howard was one of the original founders of All-America Rose Selections Inc., the non-profit organization that tests and chooses AARS winners each year. Mr. Howard died in 1948.



Pictured above is a crop of roses grown in 1922. You can see that today's roses are much more vigorous.

As a comparison, pictured above is today's crop of roses growing at the Searl Ranch in Diamond Valley.

It was just eight years after the turn of the Century, way back when Teddy Roosevelt was president that Howards of Hemet settled in the beautiful high mountain valley of the San Jacinto Mountains. With faith and vision in the potential of the area Howards of Hemet has grown steadily over the years until today it occupies a unique position in the rose growing industry.

Howards of Hemet is today recognized as one of the leading grower-hybridizers of roses in the entire country, and has had two of their rosebushes selected as All-America winners . . . Lilibet in 1954 and Tiffany in 1955.

From the beginning Howards of Hemet has maintained the highest standards. And today the company is recognized as outstanding rose authorities. . . . Howards of Hemet is a charter member of the All-America Rose Selections and maintains one of the 23 official AARS test gardens.

Mr. Ernest Lindquist, co-founder of Howard Rose Co., joined the firm as a partner one year after Charles Howard, Sr. started the business. Ernest Lindquist is still active in the hybridizing and advisory capacity.

Way back when . . . the original staff standing in front of the first grading and packing building. Some in the picture are still with firm. Photographed in 1921.